



SYDNEY HELLAND

Pool open until Dec. 31

Laurier has delayed the university pool's closure to allow community groups more time to raise funds for its repair; it's now up to those groups to raise the funds that would keep the pool from closing

JEREMY TREMBLAY
NEWS EDITOR

Wilfrid Laurier University has officially announced that its aging pool will now remain open until December 31.

The move was made to give community groups, who were left scrambling to find alternate facilities when in June the original date of closure was set as August 31, more time to raise funds to extend the life of the facility.

Consulting engineers have said

that the pool is safe to keep open on a day-to-day basis over the coming months, though Jim Butler, VP: Finance for WLU, cautions that the pool could be closed on short notice before December 31 should the facility become unsafe.

The cost of extending the life of the pool lies anywhere from \$1.5 million for a solution that will last five years to \$20 million to replace the pool.

Laurier is working with community groups to plan for repairs, but Butler stresses that Laurier will not

be responsible for raising funds.

"It will be up to the community [to raise funds] if they want to use it," he said.

"Otherwise, it will be a different type of pool if we put one in. We're into a campus planning process right now... and that's going to take about a year. We're just in the throws of hiring a consultant right now. We'll probably wait until we have a campus plan officially approved before we make any move on a pool," he explained.

According to WLU's President

Max Blouw, the school's priorities for capital funding lie elsewhere.

"We are constantly looking for government funding for various capital needs," Blouw explained, "but our priority has been student needs and classroom needs. We have a long list of deferred maintenance that is on our radar screen. The pool is one element of that but it is a lower priority."

He cited renovations to Arts 1E1 and classrooms in St. Michael's campus as WLU's current priority.

The pool's potential closure had

significant effect on both community groups and school users.

According to Peter Tiidus, chair of the kinesiology department, several courses in the department will be directly affected, including a course on swim coaching, an aquatic fitness class and several labs.

"We have booked some time over in the Rec Centre instead," explained Tiidus, "but that's fairly expensive and we'd prefer not to do that. ... As for the labs and things we would run in there, I don't know how we're going to replace them; we haven't crossed that bridge yet."

- SEE **POOL**, PAGE 11

WLUSU website final cost around \$100,000

The new Students' Union website, to be completed by January 5, may include an election module to allow for online voting by students

REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

The Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) has settled on a supplier for its new website and has gone into initial negotiations to create a final contract.

Negotiations began on August 26 and, depending on the package of features WLUSU selects, the final pricetag may vary.

According to Phil Champagne, Marketing and Communications Manager, the final number will be

below the budgeted \$165,000.

"I think it'll probably come in under \$100,000. Where it'll come in under that I can't be sure, but that's the way it's looking right now," said Champagne.

"We have the full 'out of the box' software package, which is available for about \$60,000 with full custom design in terms of graphic design and it goes to the higher end of that project which is full customization. I think that came out to \$150,000," he explained.

The website is targeted for com-

pletion by January 5, 2009 and, with a new and improved website, Champagne revealed some of the new things WLUSU plans to experiment with.

"One of the bigger ones is the elections module because the Students' Union is slowly trying to go towards a more environmental system, so we want to have a paperless election," he said.

Champagne explained that the election module would have a feature where students could put in their student number to prove their

status as a student, but the system would be configured so that each student could only vote once.

As well, he noted that there would be measures to ensure privacy during voting times and, in the service agreement, WLUSU would make sure the website was secure enough to handle many people using it at the same time.

"We would anticipate higher traffic at certain times of the year, so that might be one of the times we would prepare with more bandwidth to secure the site," Champagne stated.

Another feature WLUSU wants to try out is incorporating videos, blogs and photographs of an entertaining nature, which, Champagne

noted, would "engage students and create a virtual dialogue between them and WLUSU."

The Students' Union is even toying with the idea of a Facebook-type application, included internally on the website where students could interact with one another.

"You name it. Anything that you can do on the Internet we want to try and have on the website," said Champagne.

Until the new website is built, Champagne explained that he and VP: Marketing Jackie McDonald have been working to ensure that the old website is kept current, clean and free of redundancy.

THE CORD WEEKLY

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"It's actually kind of karma."

- Editor-in-Chief Alex Hayes, on stealing a chocolate bar from a pair of girls as they were arguing in front of a vending machine.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Onerous - Representing a great burden or difficulty.

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COLOPHON

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Preamble to The Cord Constitution

The Cord will keep faith with its readers by presenting news and expressions of opinions comprehensively, accurately and fairly.

The Cord believes in a balanced and impartial presentation of all relevant facts in a news report, and of all substantial opinions in a matter of controversy.

The staff of *The Cord* shall uphold all commonly held ethical conventions of journalism. When an error of omission or of commission has occurred, that error shall be acknowledged promptly.

When statements are made that are critical of an individual, or an organization, we shall give those affected the opportunity to reply at the earliest time possible.

Ethical journalism requires impartiality, and consequently conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest will be avoided by all staff.

The only limits of any newspaper are those of the world around it, and so *The Cord* will attempt to cover its world with a special focus on Wilfrid Laurier University, and the community of Kitchener-Waterloo, and with a special ear to the concerns of the students of Wilfrid Laurier University. Ultimately, *The Cord* will be bound by neither philosophy, nor geography in its mandate.

The Cord has an obligation to foster freedom of the press and freedom of speech. This obligation is best fulfilled when debate and dissent are encouraged, both in the internal workings of the paper, and through *The Cord*'s contact with the student body.

The Cord will always attempt to do what is right, with fear of neither repercussions, nor retaliation. The purpose of the student press is to act as an agent of social awareness, and so shall conduct the affairs of our newspaper.

Summer, summarized

For these highlighted stories and others you've missed over the summer, visit CordWeekly.com

MAY 2008



Student accused of terrorism

Laurier staff and peers support Suresh Sriskandarajah despite claims by the U.S.

Students may still join WLUSA

Laurier students allowed legal representation over unionization

Lord of the Sims

Maxis co-founder speaks on campus

No re-zoning

City council votes against re-zoning "student slums"

Big WLUSU BOD budget

\$31,575.87 budget approved by the Board of Directors

Baxter leads Canada's athletes

Director of Laurier Athletics will go to the FISU games in February

Luciani drafted

Receiver Dante Luciani goes to Eskimos

Maxwell's music

New venue opened beside King St. Residence

JUNE 2008



Underagers barred from the Turret

Underagers will not be allowed in on bar nights

Double-rooms

WLU over-enrolls for third year in a row

Economist gets national attention

Sue Horton proposes cure to malnutrition

Elite journalists speak at CIGI

Four famous correspondents at roundtable

\$165,000 WLUSU website

BOD approves large budget for new site

Chancellor Pollock

Electrohome founder installed in WLU position

Intramurals awarded

Athletics department acknowledged for 07/08 programming

VG Cats let loose

Internet cartoonist talks to *The Cord*

JULY 2008



BOD Chair honourarium increased

Asif Bacchus gets a raise

Blouw's bucks

Presidents' contracts go public

New Acting VP: Academic

Brantford's Leo Groarke comes to Waterloo

Laurier radio and tv society created

New broadcasting program initiated

Shad nominated for Polaris

Laurier alumnus Shadrach Kabango shortlisted for prestigious prize

Exclusive web stories on CordWeekly.com

CrimeStoppers

WaterlooCrimeStoppers.ca website created, with help from Laurier staff.

Laurier student passes away

Fourth-year student Robin Richardson succumbs to suspected embolism in June

Pool closing?

WLU makes initial announcement that pool would close on August 31 (see cover story)

Brantford independence

WLUSU Brantford's campus council is made more independent

> VOCAL CORD

"How do you feel about the new no rollover policy with the OneCard meal plan?"



"It doesn't make sense - if you pay the money it should stay with you until you graduate."

- Lauren Smeed,
Fourth-year Music



"It's your money. I don't see why it just disappears."

- Tracey Aitcheson
Fourth-year Business



"It's bad because it distinguished Laurier. I know it was a great feature because I had thousands left over."

- Tara Zwicker
Second-year Biology and History



"It sucks. Now I guess I'm going to try and eat as much as I can before the year ends."

- Steve Jakobsen
First-year Honours History



"It differentiated us from other schools. It's a big pain in the butt."

- Romi Levine
Fourth-year Communication
Studies

Meal plan changes

\$500 maximum carry-forward for one semester; funds no longer transfer to convenience account

LAURA CARLSON
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

The Laurier meal plan, a required purchase for all first-year students living in dormitory residences, has currently seen a significant change in both the amount of money slotted into the various accounts, as well as the carry forward policies.

In past years all money left on a student's OneCard at the end of first year was transferred into a convenience account which could be used to make purchases at off-campus vendors as well as any on-campus ones including the Laurier Bookstore.

"We're trying to improve our profitability in WLU Food Services," said Dan Dawson, General Manager of Student Services.

"In doing that we needed ... organizational changes to the meal plan."

Starting this year students are only allowed to carry forward a maximum of \$500 which expires at the end of their first semester of second year, and the money must stay in the allotted accounts.

The meal plan is broken up into three separate accounts.

Prime dollars, making up the bulk of the funds, must be used at on-campus establishments such as the Dining Hall, King Street Residence and WCH Residence cafes, alternative dollars that apply to other on-campus establishments, and convenience dollars, which can be used at multiple establishments.

Aside from having fewer dol-

lars in the convenience account - about \$350 depending on one's meal plan - six off-campus vendors such as Beach Bunnies tanning studio and Sugar Mountain, which didn't fit with the overall mission of the university, have also been dropped from the program.

"We've significantly reduced the amount of money and options off-campus for the OneCard," said Colin LeFevre, president of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU).

"If the options are here on campus, why would we want the money going into private dollars?" he added.

LeFevre explained that currently all of WLUSU businesses are operating profitably, and that they in no way sought to change the struc-

turing of the meal plan.

"The university came to us and said 'the dining hall and Food Services in general is losing ... hundreds and thousands of dollars every year and they said that one of the causes ... was the structure of the meal plan,'" said LeFevre.

"We certainly didn't ask for the negotiations of the changes because we don't have any problems.

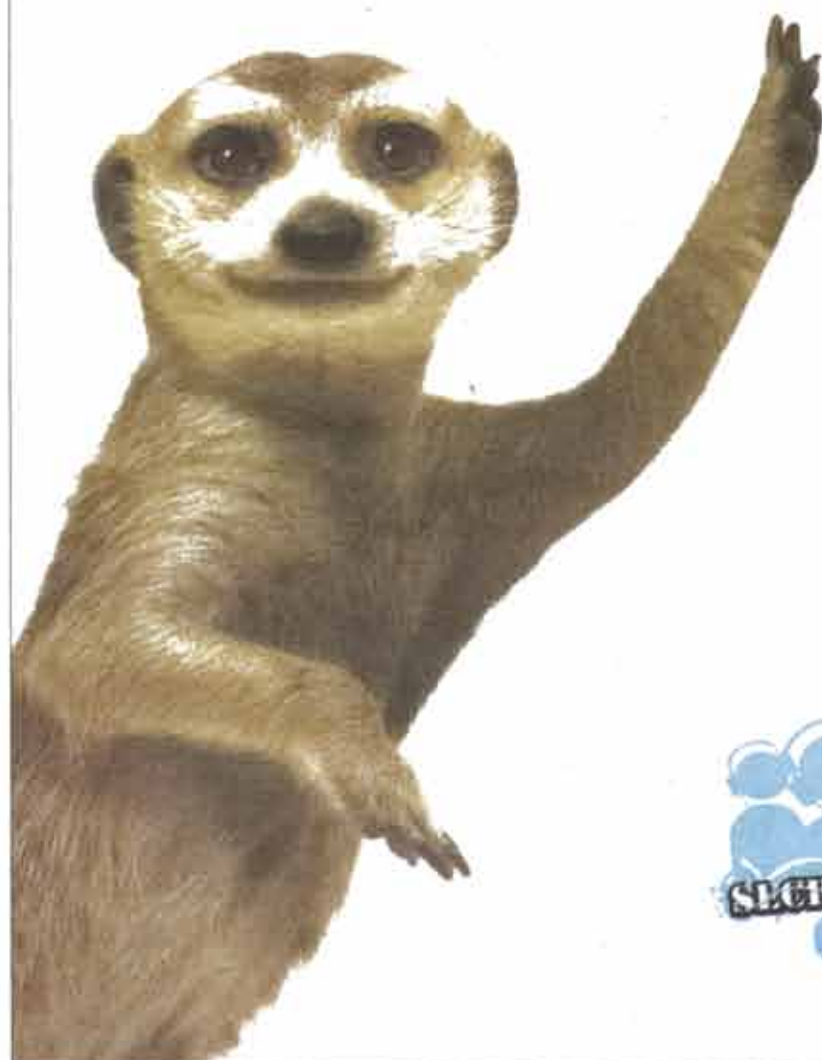
"Food Services clearly does with their exuberant losses," he added.

Since WLUSU and the university have an operating agreement, any changes made to the meal plan had to be agreed upon by the Students' Union. After several proposals went back and forth between

- SEE MEAL PLAN, PAGE 5

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Minister Monte announces Federal Budget

Federal Minister Solberg reported changes made to this year's budget affecting university students

REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Monte Solberg announced administrative changes outlined in 2008's federal budget that concern post-secondary students across the country at an event in Kitchener on Monday, August 25.

The announcement took place at the Catholic Family Counselling Centre in downtown Kitchener, and Solberg informed those in attendance of some new assistance given to Canadian university students.

Not included in the budget, however, was the fact that the high interest rates for student loans were left untouched.

Joey Coleman, *Maclean's* on-campus reporter and blogger, was disappointed by the exclusion after reading the details of the budget on February 26 when they were released.

"Loan programs should not be about making money collecting interest, it should be about the government taxing on its costs of getting that money, what it paid to borrow it and nothing more," said Coleman.

"I don't understand why the government will not lower its interest rates to prime... I think it makes sense, but when the government sits down and decides where it's

spending the treasury, this is not a priority."

According to Coleman, the federal government is charging an interest rate of 2.5 percent above the prime amount – with Ontario individually charging 1 percent above prime – and he believes that while it would cost the government money, it would ultimately be good for Canada's economy as a whole to lower the rate.

"By lowering the interest rate 2.5 percent, yes, it will cost the government money, but the key thing is that students will actually end up paying over a shorter period of time, and once a student is done, paying off their loans, they generally have money that they end up investing in the housing market and other vehicles that generate economic growth," he explained.

When asked, Solberg addressed the issue of high interest rates after his speech, explaining that one of the measures taken in the government's 2008 budget was the allocation of more money to help students repay their debts.

He believes this method will be more effective because it helps students no matter why they are struggling to repay their debts, as for some it may not be caused by high interest rates.

"We've put in new supports on the front end so that people have more money in their pockets so that they can make the decision to



MONTE-ARY SUPPORT - Minister Solberg explains the financial benefits for future students.

go to school, and on the back end so that if they struggle to repay they have some generous programming in place that will lift the burden," stated Solberg.

These supportive strategies were all measures of the federal budget that Solberg announced in his speech.

A total of \$123 million will be directed towards modernizing Canadian student loans programs, with \$76 million of that going towards aiding loan repayment, and \$23 million going towards reformatting an online system where students can pay back their loans at one place instead of several.

"The repayment processes were complicated and onerous," stated Solberg.

"We're using the internet to provide students with a single window to monitor and manage both federal and provincial student loans," he added.

In addition, the Canadian Millennium Scholarship program will be replaced with the Canada Student Grant Program, which aims to grow to \$430 million by 2012-13 and plans to reach 245,000 students instead of 105,000.

In this new system, which will

come into effect in a year, recipients will receive monthly grants rather than yearly ones.

"If a student is from a low-income family or middle-income family and qualifies for a Canada student loan that student will automatically get a Canada Student Grant," explained Solberg.

"The new Canada Student Grant program will give students funding they can count on. They can predict how much they will get, they can plan ahead and never have to pay that money back."

Lesley Cooper, Dean of Social Work at Laurier, was in attendance and believes that the changes were ultimately positive.

"I think anything that helps students from a disadvantaged background... is a good thing for students, is a good thing for Canada and is certainly a good thing for Laurier," she stated.

And despite his criticisms, Coleman noted that there are good features of the new budget.

"The federal government here has not done a bad job. The one thing I think that they need to do is the amount of money in student loans that students can get each year doesn't increase, yet tuition does

and what you end up with is almost a yo-yo affect," he explained.

"Tuition has gone up in some cases 24 percent but students have received no increase in student loan rates. So what we need is a fixed rate where both change together," he added.

And as the federal government has not increased student loan rates, tuition generally increases year by year at universities across Canada.

WLU President Max Blouw attributes this at Laurier to a lack of funding from the provincial government.

"We're advocating the provincial government that the funding per student go up, but in the absence of that and with the inflationary pressures that universities face, we have to make the budget balance," Blouw stated.

"There's no doubt that students are feeling economic pressure. Families supporting students are also facing economic pressures and at the same time so are governments and so are universities, so none of the three parties are without pressure... It's really about reaching a balance."

WLUSU renovations underway

Alterations made to the FNCC include a major overhaul of the Pita Shack

REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

After a summer of busy renovations in the Fred Nichols Campus Centre (FNCC), Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) construction will end in time for O-Week.

Alterations made to the Pita Shack at the Terrace, the main entrance to the FNCC, and the third-floor 24-Hour Lounge have been underway for much of the summer.

The biggest project was the renovation of the Pita Shack, which was mainly customer-service oriented according to WLUSU President Colin LeFevre, who called the project "a total overhaul."

LeFevre explained that because the counters in the space ran at a

strange angle, there was unused space, so the counter was moved forward to run straight and provide more space behind the facility.

"You saw how we used to have to use bags and throw those out, and now we're going to have a dishwasher [in the back] so we can mix everything in bowls and the environmental side is good there," he said, adding mention of another service place to make things more efficient.

"The renovations are mostly a customer service sort of thing to get quicker service, better service and at the same time trying to help the environment out a little and not throw out giant garbage bags full of little bags every day," noted LeFevre.

The changes, which cost a total of

\$130,000, will be completed in time for training on September 4.

Renovations made to the entrance of the FNCC were an effort to create storage rooms.

According to Michael McMahon, WLUSU general manager, the change was a "very simplistic one."

"There's always need for more storage space and we have created storage facilities at the entrance of the building in areas that were unused in the past," McMahon stated.

The bulk of construction was completed on August 25, with aesthetic finishes being added to the façade later in the week.

In the 24-Hour Lounge, the fence around the seating area has been removed to create bar-level laptop stations, a project that cost \$17,000.



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Students Offering Support expands nationally

Charitable SBE club started at Laurier, designed to help students study, opens chapters at nine university campuses across Canada

LAURA CARLSON
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

Greg Overholt, a recent graduate of the Laurier business program, has truly accomplished something spectacular. He has seen his passion project – Students Offering Support (SOS) – grow into a national success.

"I'm excited for Laurier SOS," said Overholt of the School of Business and Economics (SBE) club he started in his second year at WLU.

After spending his last co-op term working to set up the non-profit organization, branches of SOS have now opened at nine universities across Canada.

"It's like running nine different small businesses," said Overholt.

"As long as they use the overall vision of what Students Offering Support is about and why we're here, how you do it is up to you ... That's the beauty of this small, social entrepreneurship business; it's all up to you."

For a \$20 donation, students can attend large-scale tutoring sessions, traditionally for courses in the business and economics programs.

"I don't think any of us [knew how successful it would be] when we started it four years ago and thought of this 'exam cram' initiative," said Overholt.

The money collected at the tutoring sessions is put towards a yearly humanitarian project where volunteers travel to a selected country.

The volunteers completely finance the trips themselves, and all funds raised throughout the year go towards the materials needed for the actual project.

"It was just one of the four pillars of ways we wanted to raise money and it just ended up taking off," said Overholt.

To date, SOS has raised over \$130,000 for sustainable education projects, and this past August

18 students travelled to Honduras to renovate a farm school for orphaned boys.

Laura Allan, a professor at Laurier who teaches first-year business and sits on the SOS Board of Directors, feels that SOS offers a "tremendous resource" to students, as long as they use the services appropriately.

"Students have a lot of other avenues ... and it's just one extra avenue for them," said Allan.

"What Greg has done here is a really commendable thing. I think it's a real assistance to students if they take it the right way, if they don't see it as a way to rely on someone else to help them."

Aside from benefiting students who use SOS services as a learning resource, Allan also sees how the project helps students looking to gain some teaching experience.

One such individual is Ian Hutchinson, a third-year business student, and next year's head tutor, who got involved with SOS not only because he wanted volunteer experience, but also to participate in the teaching aspect of the program.

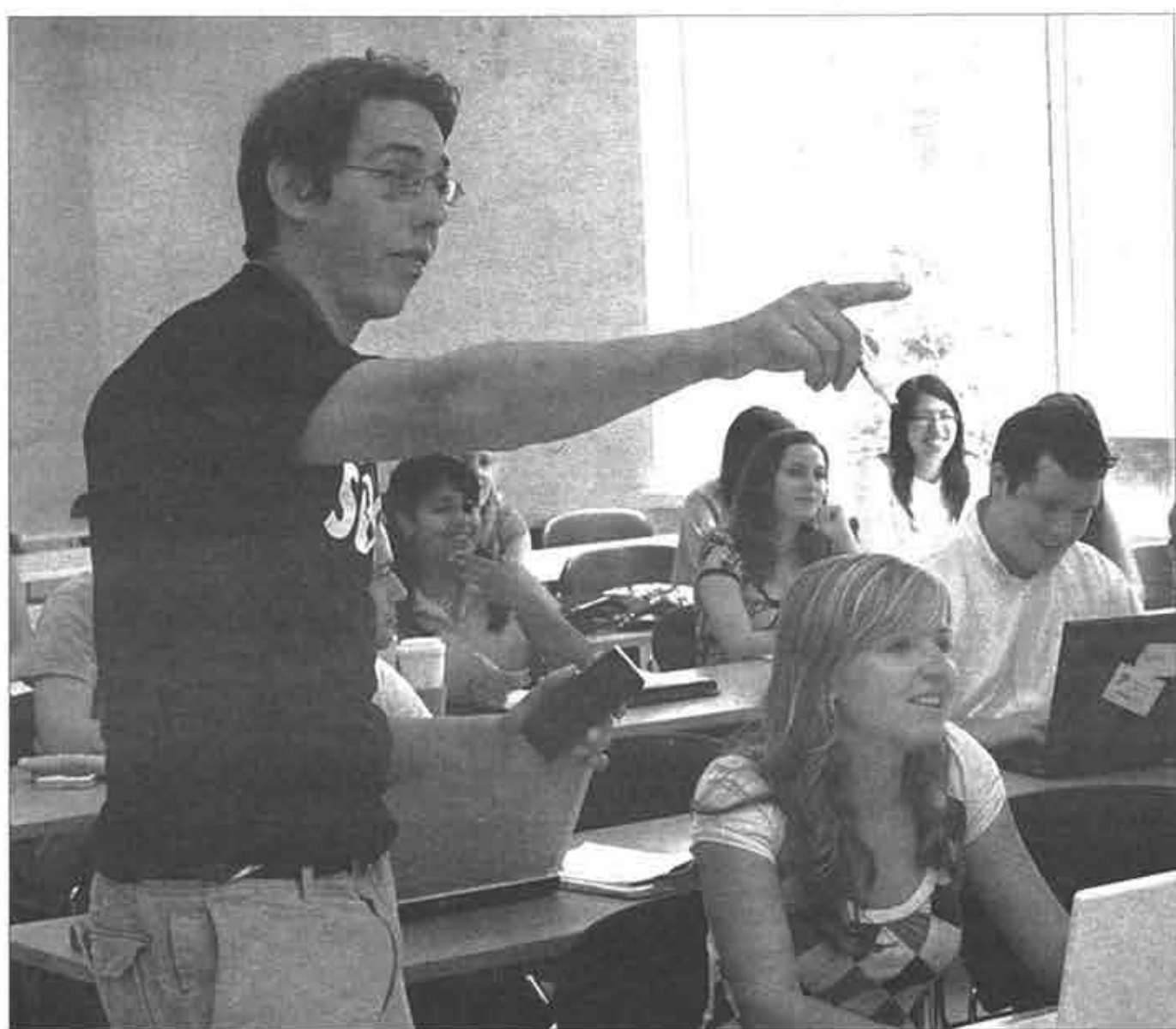
"I've always loved teaching; the passion you feel, the rush you get when you teach. I wanted to contribute on a bigger scale," said Hutchinson of his involvement.

"You're amazed by the amount of kids that come out and the amount of help you can provide," he added.

This year, the SOS program at Laurier is seeking to increase the number of students to whom they can offer academic assistance, as they will be teaching exam aid sessions in programs outside business and economics.

"We're hoping to expand into different faculties," explained Olesya Komashko, president of Laurier SOS.

Classes are already planned to take place in languages this upcoming year – specifically Spanish and



LAURIER SOS

EXAM AID - 'Exam aid' sessions, such as this one, help to raise money for humanitarian projects.

German – and Komashko is also looking for volunteers interested in organizing sessions for classes in other departments at Laurier.

"You definitely need somebody from [that program] making sure your approach to them is the right one," said Komashko.

"You have to have a different approach to every faculty because it's so different."

This concept is based on Trent's SOS model, in which courses are taught in various programs and aren't focused on one particular academic niche.

"My goal is to have everyone know about SOS," said Komashko.

"It's a great service for everyone to use, it shouldn't matter what your faculty is."

While Komashko will be working to ensure SOS's growth within the Laurier community, Overholt too will be looking for ways to ensure SOS's future success.

In September, he will become the full-time director of SOS, and will be staying in Waterloo to run the organization.

He hopes that by September 2009, the business will be fully sustainable.

"The whole point of this is that it does become sustainable, it just needs to grow some more," said

Overholt.

He is optimistic that, if this next year goes well, they will be able to open more chapters across Canada and potentially tap into the post-secondary market in the United States as well.

"What I'm looking for is support to get to the point of sustainability," said Overholt.

"This model was devised so that it won't be run like a charity, it will be run like a social business ... I want to be able to provide more of a business mindset, more of a sustainable mindset into [the charitable sector], and that's what I feel SOS can do in a matter of a year."

Cost cannot fall solely to WLU students: LeFevre

- FROM MEAL PLAN, PAGE 3

the two groups they were finally able to come to the current agreement.

Though LeFevre is "relieved" that they were at least able to negotiate a carry forward amount – initially it was proposed that no funds could move forward to the next year – he is "disappointed" that they weren't able to obtain a longer time frame for students to use this money.

"It wouldn't have been my optimal decision but the reality of having that extra leeway is significantly better than nothing," said LeFevre.

Dean of Students David McMurray, who has worked during his time at Laurier to create the current meal plan, was the one who initially brought in the flexibility for students to carry money forward from year to year.

He did this to ensure that students weren't forced to rapidly spend their money at the end of first year on unnecessary items, such as cases of pop.

"I think for the most part it worked and for the majority of people, but some students were carrying forward great sums of money," said

McMurray.

"They weren't using it and that gets away from the commitment you're trying to provide first-year students," he added.

On average the university found that most students had between \$100 and \$300 left on their accounts when going into their second year.

"IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN MY OPTIMAL DECISION BUT THE REALITY OF HAVING THAT EXTRA LEEWAY IS SIGNIFICANTLY BETTER THAN NOTHING."

- Colin LeFevre, president of WLUSU

Any funds left in an account that exceed \$500 at the end of first year and any funds remaining after the account expires one semester into second year will be used to offset the losses at Food Services.

Dawson explains that the primary cost of running Food Services is related to labour because

its staff is unionized under the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW).

"That's a reality when we're comparing to a student-based labour, but that's a challenge for sure," said Dawson.

With factors such as these still affecting the profitability of Food Services, LeFevre says WLUSU is only willing to help out the university if they continue to make internal changes.

"More steps need to be taken beyond this," said LeFevre.

"The students, specifically the first-year students ... should not be the ones solely bearing the cost of changes within the structure of Food Services."

These meal plan changes do not apply to students who voluntarily purchase a meal plan, such as those living in apartment style residences or students who have money left on their account from previous years.

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See PAGE 28 for editorial reaction to this story



SYDNEY HELLAND

OneCard audit undisclosed

A Freedom of Information request for a copy of last year's forensic audit fails: "employee-related matters" cited as the reasoning

LAURA CARLSON
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

A request for a copy of an extensive audit at the OneCard office, which was conducted between November and February of last year, has failed under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).

Any information relating to the four-month forensic audit – a type of audit that aims to uncover specific details (typically of the financial nature) which are not in compliance with acceptable auditing standards – will not be made public.

Most notably this includes details relating to the employment of the former manager of the office, Nick Tomljenovic, who since the audit began is no longer an employee of the university.

The OneCard office is responsible for all finances that go through the service, which includes Laurier meal plans, as well as several on and off-campus vendors.

Though universities fall under FIPPA, the University Information and Privacy Office at Laurier, as well as the mediator assigned to the case during the appeals process through the Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC) of Ontario, cited a particular section of the Act that makes the requested file exempt.

"This document was prepared on behalf of the university, in relation to anticipated proceedings and employment-related matters," stated the initial Index of Records received following the request.

Bob Spence, the Communications Co-ordinator for the IPC of Ontario, noted that one of the primary roles of his office is to deal with appeals when a government organization, such as a university, declines to release requested information.

"Our office looks at the request ... it will look at the decision letter from the government office ... and determine according to what the legislation says whether the government organization made the right decision in denying the request," said Spence.

Aside from the exemption based on particular sections of the Act, Carlos Martins, legal counsel representing *The Cord* provided by the Canadian University Press (CUP), explained that new information he received at the mediation hearing was also protected because of a different law.

"We learned for the first time at the mediation that the document we're after is something that was prepared for the university's lawyers," said Martins.

"There's a very strong solicitor-client privilege argument and that would likely defeat our request.

"It's the same principal that any discussions you have with your lawyer are not to be revealed to the outside world ... The university has the ability to absolutely prevent it if they choose."

Though Martins does not have the specific information relating to this case, he noted that typically a lawyer would be contacted in such an incident because a client may suspect legal ramifications.

"I wouldn't expect that in a routine audit there would be any reason to involve a lawyer," said Martins.

"There's nothing a lawyer would add to scrutinize the financial affairs of the company; that's what an accountant is good at," he said.

Martins said that in incidents where there are problems between an employee and an employer there are often arrangements made between the two parties in which they make an agreement to not make sensitive information public.

"I suspect that there may be an arrangement with an employee of the university, that I don't know about, that may have not completely followed the procedures with respect to the OneCard program," said Martins.

"And if that's the case that's a little bit disappointing because this is a matter that could potentially involve university funds."

In response to this incident Lau-

rier has since issued a public statement claiming that no student lost funds as a result of any actions at the OneCard office.

"The forensic audit conducted in the fall of 2007 by KPMG Forensic of the WLU OneCard System did not disclose that any WLU student lost any funds or that any WLUSU business lost any funds," said the statement prepared by Allison Roberts, Assistant VP: Human Resources.

Colin LeFevre president of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU), which operates all on-campus student businesses that accept the OneCard as a method of payment, noted that personally he has not received any information regarding this situation.

"Hopefully the statement of 'no student dollars were lost' and so forth is true," said LeFevre.

"The information that we've received in terms of what's going on with the Terrace and our own business is that nothing went wrong," he added.

The university, however, declined to comment on whether any financial impropriety took place that could have affected individuals who are not WLU students, or non-WLUSU businesses.

With the audit now complete and the former manager of the office, Tomljenovic, no longer an employee of the university, Richard Godsmark has officially been hired

as the permanent manager.

"Because I've been working in the capacity for a little while ... I was told they were very pleased with the work I was doing they asked me to continue to do that," said Godsmark who has been working in the OneCard office since Tomljenovic's departure.

"It's in really good shape to move forward and Richard is doing an exceptional job," said Dean of Students David McMurray, whose office the OneCard ultimately falls under.

"There are a lot of little things that they've learned in terms of managing the operation."

"There is [now] an elevated relationship with the finance office. We have an internal auditor ... to look at how they can best do year-ends and reconciliations," he added.

Roberts also added that the university in combination with the new staff at the OneCard office is taking all the precautionary measures to ensure that there is no need for such extensive forensic audits in the future.

"[We are] ensuring that all of the checks and balances are in place ... and we will continue to have regular audits of all processes to ensure that they are clean."

Timeline of the WLU OneCard audit

November 2007

External auditor KPMG is contacted to undergo an extensive audit in the OneCard office.

November 8 is recorded as the date that KPMG becomes "engaged" in the process.

While the Dean of Students reports that the audit is "standard" and is only underway because no financial audit has ever been conducted for the operation, Manager of Residential Services states that "unusual activities" within the office are what prompted the investigation to occur.

Manager of the OneCard office Nick Tomljenovic is put on a paid leave of absence and it is believed that the results of the audit will be known "within days."

December 2007

No updates are provided.

January 2008

Information regarding the audit is not released due to its "sensitive nature" and KPMG follows up on "outstanding items."

Richard Godsmark begins temporarily working in the office to deal with day-to-day issues.

February 2008

After nearly four months of investigation, on February 28 the audit comes to a close.

March 2008

No information regarding the contents of the report is released.

April 2008

University administration assures that the final report provided evidence that no student suffered a loss on his or her OneCard.

It is confirmed that Tomljenovic is no longer an employee of the university and that Godsmark will continue serving as the interim manager.

On April 10 *The Cord* files a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking for the release of the audit.

The University Information and Privacy Office deny the request.

The Cord files an appeal with the Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC) of Ontario.

May 2008

The appeal is confirmed by the IPC and the mediation process between *The Cord* and the university begins.

June 2008

The mediation process is ongoing and the mediator has several conversations with both parties.

Godsmark is hired as manager of the OneCard office.

July 2008

On July 29 a mediation conference call takes place between representatives from *The Cord*, the university and the IPC.

August 2008

Due to recommendations from the mediator and legal council *The Cord* decides to not peruse the appeal and the file is closed on August 10.

"All information is based on multiple interviews conducted between November 2007 and April 2008, as well as documentation from the FOI request process. To read full coverage of the audit at the OneCard office visit CordWeekly.com"

Funding for Waterloo's rapid transit

Federal government makes financial commitment to the region's rapid transit system; announcement to be made by late 2008

LAURA CARLSON
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

As part of the "Building Canada" program, the federal government has recently made a commitment to provide funding to the Region of Waterloo's rapid transit initiative.

In late July, the federal government signed a \$6.2 billion infrastructure agreement with the province of Ontario for long-term infrastructure improvements; Waterloo's initiative was recognized as one of the top priorities in the agreement.

"This is great, great news for our project," said Donna Serrati, project director of Waterloo's rapid transit initiative. "The government is recognizing it as a priority."

Though no fixed dollar amount has been allocated to the initiative, Serrati explains that there has been a "general commitment" on behalf of the government to help finance the project.

"We've been doing a lot of work to set the groundwork for the funding," said Serrati. "It doesn't come as a complete surprise."

"Nothing was ever certain but it is confirmation of what we were hoping for," she added.

The July 24 announcement commits over \$6 billion dollars to infrastructure needs and priorities in



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LOOK, NO WHEELS - This light rail transit system in downtown Portland, Oregon, is similar to the transportation that Waterloo may have installed.

the province until 2014.

Currently the region is in the technical assessment phase of the project, which includes looking at capital, costs and benefits of all the different transit technologies available.

A short list has been created over the summer for which type of system will best suit the Region; it in-

cludes two Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and two Light Rail Transit (LRT) systems.

Serrati expects an announcement to be made in late 2008, in which they will present the decision regarding the route and technology to the public. This will be followed by submitting reports to city council for approval, and then

a final report will be drafted.

"What we're considering is a 35 km route," said Serrati. "It's certainly a big bite, both from a resource point of view and for the Region."

Serrati hopes that with this funding commitment from the government the project can have more financial flexibility, which will speed up the entire process. It has

been predicted that if everything goes well, the first leg of the system could be operational by 2013.

"[The money affects] how the project will get implemented from a phasing point of view," said Serrati.

"Rather than full implementation being spread out over x number of years, financially we may be able to move faster."

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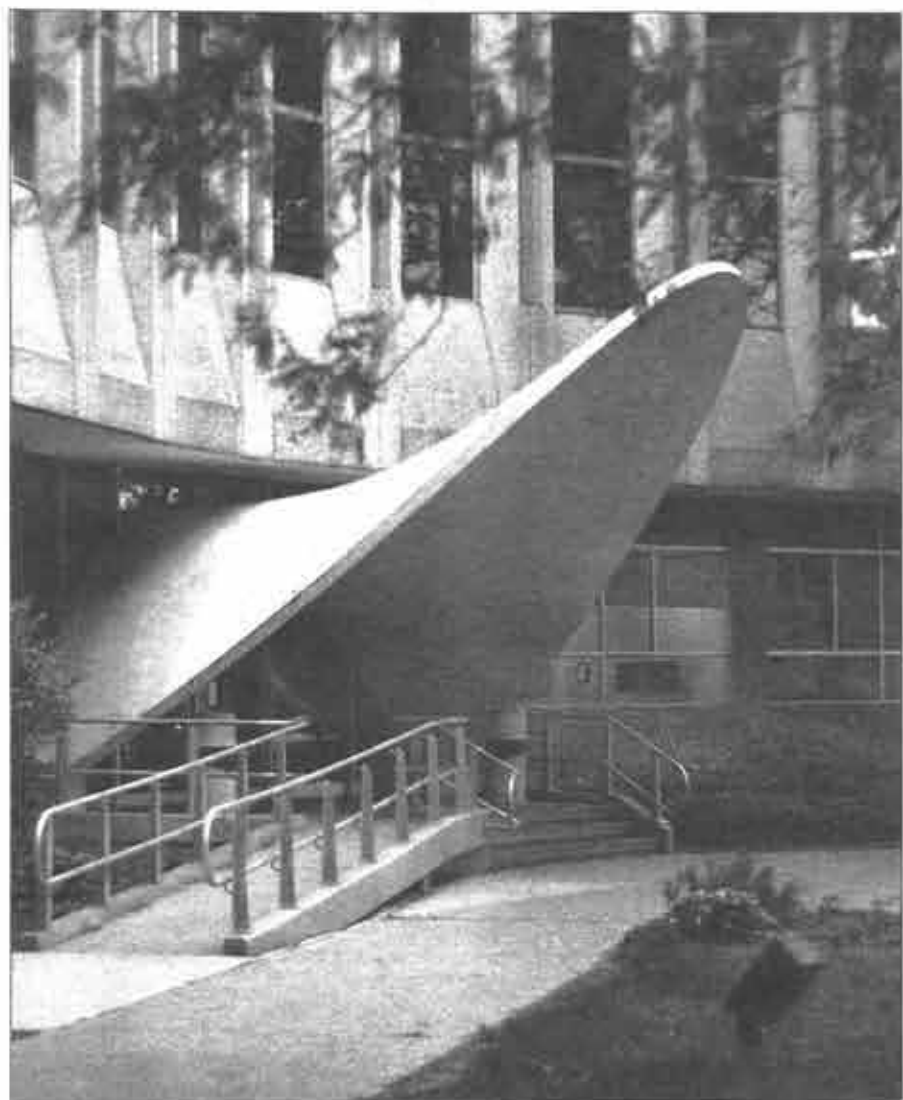
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LITTLE WING - The Kitchener Court House won't be getting WLU grads.

SYDNEY HELLAND

Case closed on WLU law school

Laurier's proposed law school is one of the three in Ontario that was denied funding due to a lack of demand for law graduates in the province

REBECCA VASLUIANU
NEWS EDITOR

After putting forward a proposal to the provincial government, Laurier was denied funding for a law school.

Laurentian University in Sudbury, as well as Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, were also denied monetary support from the government of Ontario.

Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, John Milloy, believes that the province's six law schools are sufficient for Ontario's needs in the legal sector.

"We have a network of law schools in the province and the demand for law schools always stays relatively the same," said Milloy.

"The reason we made the decision is because we saw that several universities were putting a lot of time and research into it, and we wanted to be very clear about it so we sent out a memo to let all the universities know that there would be no funding for new law schools," he added.

WLU President Max Blouw was disappointed by the news, but he believes that the priorities of the provincial government should be respected.

"I am disappointed and I think a law school makes sense for the region. There is a strong justification for the establishment. We had a strong and innovative proposal, but as I said the government has to set priorities," he said.

"There is no bottomless pit of

money, and I think this government has been supporting the post-secondary sector quite strongly. What they're trying to focus on now is dealing with the growth of the student population and creating placements for all of them," he added.

Milloy noted that the provincial government is now looking at new priorities like medical studies and graduate studies because there is growing interest in those sectors.

There have been no new law schools in Canada for almost 30 years and, according to Milloy, there is a surplus of law school graduates with not enough articling placements for them.

"There is a problem with articling because there are too many applicants and not enough positions," he stated.

Despite this, Blouw said he will not completely abandon the project.

"I would call it 'suspended animation.' We've done a lot of work and of course we won't throw it out. We're keenly aware that times change and it may happen at a later time," he explained.

According to Blouw, the strength of Laurier's proposal was its method of "combining academic learning with exposure to the practice setting," which proposed to change articling - training before entering the field - into real-world practice done throughout the program's four years instead of at its end.

Position of Privacy Coordinator eliminated

10-year university employee John Metcalfe is let go due to "restructuring" in the VP: Academic office; university working on a settlement with him

LAURA CARLSON
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

After ten years of service to the Laurier community, John Metcalfe, Director of the University Information and Privacy Office and former Registrar is no longer an employee of the university.

"He is not [with the university any longer]," said Allison Roberts, Assistant VP: Human Resources.

Though she could not clarify the exact date of his departure Roberts noted that Metcalfe left "about a week ago."

Leo Groarke, acting VP: Academic, to whom Metcalfe reported to, explained that this was due to the elimination of the position of the Director of the University Information and Privacy Office.

"We're restructuring the office of the vice president Academic ... in order to do this in a budget neutral

way a couple positions have been eliminated," explained Groarke.

Currently, Human Resources, under Roberts, will be handling all issues relating to privacy matters; however, a new position - assistant vice president of Academic Services - will become responsible for much of the work that currently fell to the University Information and Privacy Office.

They are hoping to hire someone to fill that role by January 1.

"The idea is that we're going to bring under one person all the different staff areas that support the academic operations of the university," said Groarke.

"There are some concerns about the way the office was structured so in a sense this is the first step in that direction, but there will be other steps coming," he added.

The process of restructuring first began when Groarke took office

August 1.

He is temporarily serving as VP: Academic until June of this academic year at which time the position will be filled permanently.

"I met with [Metcalfe] and said 'I'm sorry to tell you I'm eliminating this position,' and he was told then," said Groarke.

Groarke also explained that currently they are working on a settlement with Metcalfe in regards to his departure from Laurier.

Metcalfe was an employee of the university for ten years, eight of which he served as the Registrar and two of which he served as the Director of the University Information and Privacy Office.

Just this past February, Metcalfe was the recipient of the Ontario University Registrar's Association (OURA) Award of Achievement for his contributions to the organization over the years.



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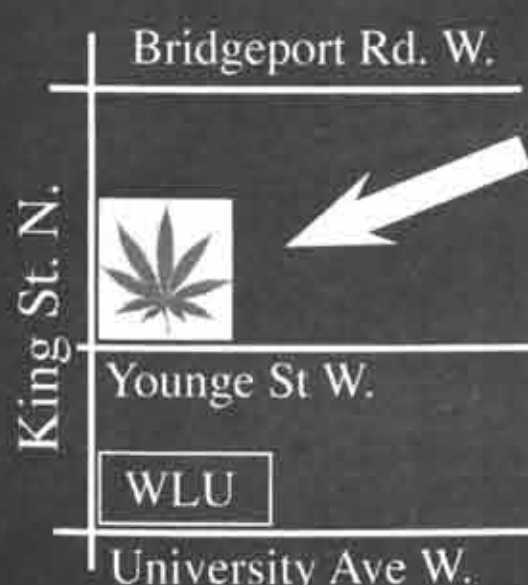
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Beijing wouldn't have been possible without Laurier's pool: Beavers

FROM POOL, COVER

The pool's delayed closure also means that the Region of Waterloo Swim Club (ROW), one of the many community groups that uses the pool, will be able to offer a full program during the fall.

The group, which has used WLU's pool for 32 years, has trained over a dozen Olympic swimmers - including Keith Beavers and Jessica Tuomela who competed this year in Beijing - who have won more than half a dozen medals.

When asked what his training situation would have been like without WLU's pool, Beavers had an immediate response.

"I wouldn't have gone to Beijing, it's that simple," he explained.

"The Laurier pool isn't an international facility, obviously, but it still provides a great benefit to myself. It's a 50-metre pool, it's the only one we can really use in the community," Beavers said.

"That's indispensable. There aren't a lot of 50-metre pools even in the province," he said, adding that Toronto only has two of that length.

Beavers recently returned from Beijing, where he broke three Canadian records and made it into a final round.

"My performance was fantastic. ... I achieved every single goal that I had set out for myself at the beginning of the year," he explained.

Beavers says that making sure the pool remains open is important to him, despite the fact he is slowly getting out of swimming.

"It is a really big deal," he said, "because it's really important to me that this pool be available for my team. I would be doing myself and really the community a disservice if I didn't put all my effort into keeping this pool open."

The pool is also used by the KW Synchronized Swim Club, the Waterloo Regional Synchronized Swim Club, the KW Water Polo Club, high schools, elementary schools and Special Olympics athletes.

"For a university setting, it's quite community oriented. I can't stress that enough," said ROW head coach Dean Boles.

"The importance of this pool is huge. [Laurier has] allowed the accessibility, they've made it affordable and a lot of people over the years have benefited."

According to Boles, it's rare for a university to make so much time available to community groups.

"I'll be right up front... the University of Waterloo is not a community-oriented, accessible situation.

It just isn't. Laurier is," he explained, adding that the situation at UW is common for university facilities.

ROW president Tracy Bennett explained that the club is glad that the university has delayed the pool's closure.

"Laurier has listened. The fact they're keeping [the pool] open tells me that they listened. They realized we were devastated by the closure," she says.

"We're very grateful for that."

Bennett added that the need for funds might be well timed, considering the Beijing Olympics just wrapped up.

"Canadians don't really understand what it takes [to get medals]," she said.

"It takes facilities to get medals. Maybe it's a good year to have this happen. Let's get passionate about the fact that we do care about sport and we don't want to be at the Olympics without medals."

While the \$1.5 million seems intimidating, Bennett hopes that by splitting it up people will be less intimidated and will be willing to donate to repairing the Laurier pool.

"If we could write the cheque ourselves, we'd have it written," she added.

See PAGE 28 for editorial reaction to this story



SYDNEY HELLAND

COOL POOL - Laurier's coveted pool may only be open for the next four months, as repair and maintenance costs are too much to handle.

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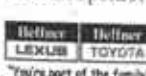
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Are you ready for some football?



SYDNEY HELLAND

READY TO RUMBLE - Head Coach Jeffries looks on as the Golden Hawks practice at University Stadium in preparation for their first season game against the Guelph Gryphons.

The Hawks were hard at work the past two weeks preparing for the upcoming season, and one of their toughest starts in years

LAUREN MILLET
SPORTS EDITOR

Yet another season of Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawk football is set to get under way this afternoon, and 2008 promises to be nothing less than electrifying. After losing a number of veterans last season, this group of Hawks is certainly different than what we have seen in previous years.

"We're certainly a much younger football team. However, there are a lot of kids who have been in the program, picked up some experience backing up some pretty good players that are now going to get a chance to show what they can do," said Manager of Football Operations and Head Coach Gary Jeffries. "Our freshmen are as good as any freshmen anywhere. You're going to see a lot of new faces."

While it is a much younger squad, Coach Jeffries assures that it is still a very skilled group of players. The challenge will be harnessing their individual skills into a group effort in time for their home opener against Guelph.

"We have the potential to be every bit as good a football team as we were last year, it's just a matter of how quickly we come together," Jeffries continued.

The biggest loss defensively is linebacker Anthony Maggiamo, for his absence ends a dominant

era of middle linebackers that began with his predecessor Jesse Alexander. "It's going to be hard to fill his shoes," added Jeffries. On offence, both Andy Baechler and Dante Luciani leave open spots for younger guys to step in and display their talents.

The Hawks will face a huge test right away, as they are up against the Guelph Gryphons. Looking to avenge their 2007 playoff loss, the Hawks will be led into battle by fourth-year quarterback Ian Noble.

"I think we look great, we're really fast at every position, we're really coming together as a team better than we were last year," said Noble. "A lot of new guys are stepping up."

Starting out their season, the Hawks will have to face the Gryphons this afternoon, then turn around immediately and battle defending Yates Cup winners and long-time arch-rivals the Western Mustangs on Saturday.

"It will be tough mentally to prepare for two games, but this is our dream way to start the season," commented Noble. "We didn't get to play Western last year, and they're our big rivals. The guys are going to be amped up and chomping at the bit for both games. It's not going to be hard to be ready for both."

Coach Jeffries had a similar outlook towards the opening games of the season. "We would like a little

more time [before Guelph] but we don't have that option. We're going to really have to step up the first half of the season," he said.

The entire first half of the Hawks' season looks to place one challenge after another for the young squad, as week three sees them travelling to Kingston to take on the always-difficult Queen's Golden Gaels. "If we can come out of that first half with our head above the water, and we continue to grow, we will be very competitive in the second half," continued Jeffries.

In order for the Hawks to get the 1-0 start they are hoping for, Noble predicts the Hawks are going to have to hit the ground running, and be assertive early on. "I don't think we can beat them coming from behind. They have a good offence," he said. "We need to get ahead and keep ourselves ahead and keep them off the field as much as possible."

Last Sunday, the Hawks took a trip down the road to play a pre-season scrimmage against cross-town rivals, Waterloo Warriors. The scrimmage was meant to bring out issues that still needed to be addressed before the first regular season game.

"The kids did a good job physically, but there were far too many mental mistakes," said Jeffries.

Already, the Hawks were missing 11 of their players due to injury.

"If we can put our best 24 guys out there on offence and defence, and mix it up on special teams, then we can be very competitive," continued Jeffries.

The Hawks kick off their season this afternoon at 1:00 p.m. on Knight-Newbrough field at University Stadium.

CORD/ONLINE

> cordweekly.com

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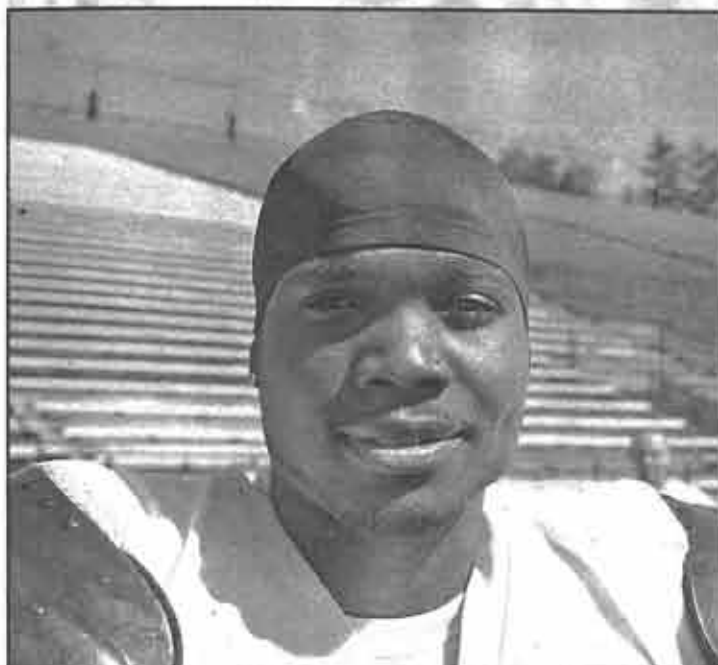
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SYDNEY HELLAND

HAWK ATTACK - The Hawks have a much younger squad this year.

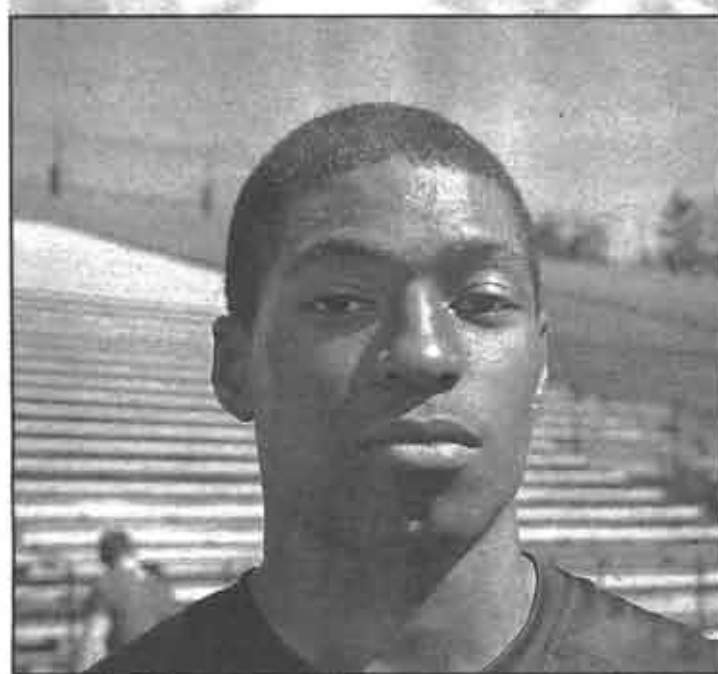
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 Fourth-year History
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ALL PHOTOS BY SYDNEY HELLAND

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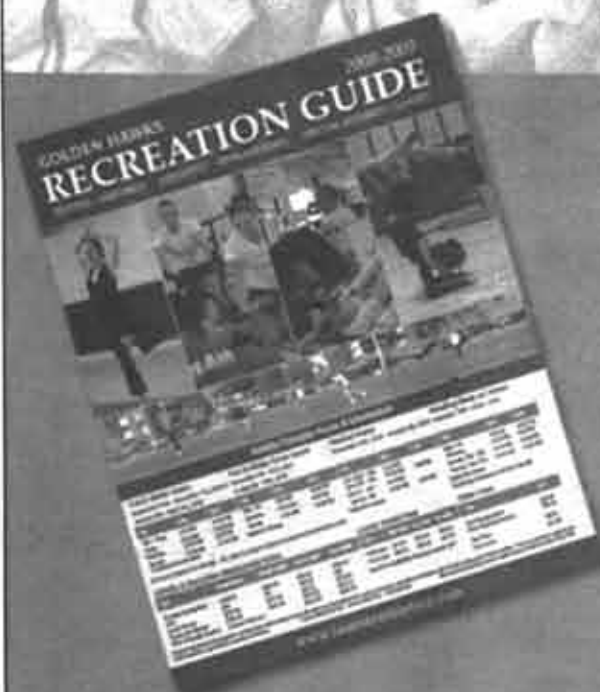
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Beijing 2008

Gold medal madness

Canadians need to prioritize what is important to them about the games



ANDREA MILLET
STAFF WRITER

No matter where they come from or what sport they compete in, every Olympic athlete dreams of gold, of standing atop the podium while their national anthem plays and their country's flag is raised.

Not only do Olympians themselves hope for success, but they have the hopes and expectations of a nation resting on their shoulders. But is a gold medal really the best place to set our sights, or are we putting too much focus where it doesn't belong?

This year at the 2008 summer games in Beijing, the Canadian men's 4x100m freestyle relay team swam to a sixth-place finish in the final and while it was not enough to place them on the podium, the swimmers set a new personal best time with their efforts.

Canadian supporters watched sadly as the American and French teams battled closely for gold with our own team four seconds behind, and as with many of the other events, we were dragged down by feelings of disappointment as another medal passed us by.

With this obsession over medal-winning instead of the personal achievements of athletes, our focus isn't in the right place. To expect Canadian athletes to be able to compete on the same level as the powerhouses in the Olympics such as the American or Chinese teams is unfair.

The top medal-winning nations have spent significantly more money and time on training and preparing their athletes for these games than Canada has, and therefore are expected to dive with more consistency, run with more stamina and consequently win more medals.

If we would like our athletes to make more appearances on the podium, Canada needs to stop criticising their performances and instead take more steps towards supporting our athletes and providing the necessary training and facilities.

A Canadian rower on the gold medal-winning men's eights team commented that while rowing is his passion and he would like to be able to return to the 2012 games in London, he now has a family to support and so his focus has to shift from rowing to a career that pays more than the \$18,000 he receives as an athlete.

Also feeling the strain of Canadian athletics is runner Jared Connaughton, who trains by running on the beach at home in Prince Edward Island because there is no proper track for him to use.

If our athletes are dealing with these circumstances, how can we possibly expect them to be able to compete on the same level as athletes who are provided with first-class facilities to train at and are fully supported financially as athletes?

Canadian show jumper Eric Lamaze demonstrated that even when you win the gold, the Olympics are about more than just a medal. He had something to prove coming into these games surrounded by controversy and lacking national

support behind him. After rising to the occasion, Lamaze proved why he is one of the best horsemen in the world and why he deserved a second chance to represent his country. Standing on the podium, his emotions made clear why that moment was about more than the gold medal around his neck.

There also seems to be a problem with how we build up our expectations for the athletes' performances and then are disappointed when they don't place as high as we were hoping.

Instead of the Olympics being about sportsmanship, and the best athletes in the world showcasing their talents, it has become about how many medals each nation can win.

It was astonishing to hear people question why Canada would spend the money to send 331 athletes to the Beijing summer games if they didn't all have a chance at winning a medal. If we don't send our young athletes today and allow them to gain experience, how can we expect them to do better in their next competition?

Once the games have been concluded and all the athletes have returned home, medals will be hung up in trophy cases, but what will live on is the experience that each athlete has gained and the memories that they have acquired as an ambassador of their nation.

At the end of the day, Canada's athletes will continue to do their best - and their best is all that we can ask of them.

letters@cordweekly.com



INSANE USAIN - Olympic sprinter Bolt has made two world records. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lightning strikes twice

Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt shocks the world

TREVOR SCHIEDEL
STAFF WRITER

On August 16, Jamaican track star Usain "Lightning" Bolt secured his first gold medal in the men's 100-metre sprint and further entrenched himself as the world's fastest man by breaking his old world record of 9.72 seconds. Amazingly, he was able to run a 9.69 while celebrating and shutting it down for the final twenty meters.

Four days later, Bolt won gold in the 200-metre by running a 19.30, breaking another world record previously held by former USA star, Michael Johnson (19.32).

Not only was Bolt the first man since Carl Lewis in 1984 to become the double sprint gold medalist at an Olympics, but he also made history by becoming the first man ever to break both records at the same Olympics.

The astonishing thing about Bolt is his path towards the

100-metre record. He had only competed in the 200 during his career and had never run the 100. That is, until his coach, Glen Mills, challenged Bolt to work on the 100-m during the early part of this season to improve his speed.

Little did they know what he was capable of.

In his third 100-metre race of his career, Bolt ran a 9.76, which at the time was the second fastest mark ever. Since then he has broken the world record twice.

At 22, Bolt hasn't even reached his potential. Canadian sprinter Donovan Bailey was 28 when he reached his peak to break the world record in the 100-metre at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. Bailey, who is working for CBC, symbolically put a crown on the Jamaican's head after the 100 metre race.

"You haven't seen nothing yet," exclaimed Bailey the next day.

Canada's medals

Gold

Eric Lamaze - Show Jumping
Men's Eight - Rowing
Carol Huynh - 48 kg Freestyle Wrestling

Silver

Adam van Koeverden - K-1 500 Kayaking
Karine Sergerie - Taekwondo
Emilie Heymans - 10m Platform Diving
Alexandre Despatie - 3m Springboard Diving
Team Canada - Show Jumping
Jason Burnett - Trampoline
Simon Whitfield - Triathlon
Karen Cockburn - Trampoline
Men's pairs - Rowing

Bronze

Thomas Hall - C-1 1,000 Canoeing
Priscilla Lopes-Schliep - 100m Hurdles
Women's Lightweight Double Sculls - Rowing
Men's Lightweight Four - Rowing
Ryan Cochrane - 1,500 m Freestyle
Tonya Verbeek - 55 kg Wrestling

No place for politics?

News from the 2008 Olympics in Beijing

China's child singer "too ugly" for the opening ceremonies in Beijing

SHAGUN RANDHAWA
STAFF WRITER

Not a single note was sung by pigtailed, rosy cheeked Lin Miaoke, who performed the patriotic song, "Ode to the Motherland" as China's national flag was carried into the stadium. In front of 91,000 people, the voice that was actually heard in the Olympic stadium during the opening ceremonies belonged to Yang Peiyi, a seven-year-old child deemed too "ugly" to be the face that belonged to the spectacular

voice.

Yang Peiyi had uneven teeth and a slightly chubby face, and was therefore replaced by Miaoke who was considered flawless by Chinese standards.

The Globe and Mail reports Chen Qigang, the ceremonies music director declaring, "I think the viewers should be able to understand that, in the national interest, the perception of the country, this is an extremely important and serious matter. The child on camera should be flawless in image, internal feel-

ing and expression."

Replacing the singer with a prettier face was not the only example of Beijing's interest in visual perfection. In fact, the government had even evicted beggars and sidewalk vendors from the city, closing down shops that were unsightly and covering construction sites with huge billboards. All taxi drivers wore dress shirts and ties, and every hostess at the Olympic medal award ceremony had to be slim, tall and attractive.

Ethnic groups vs. the government

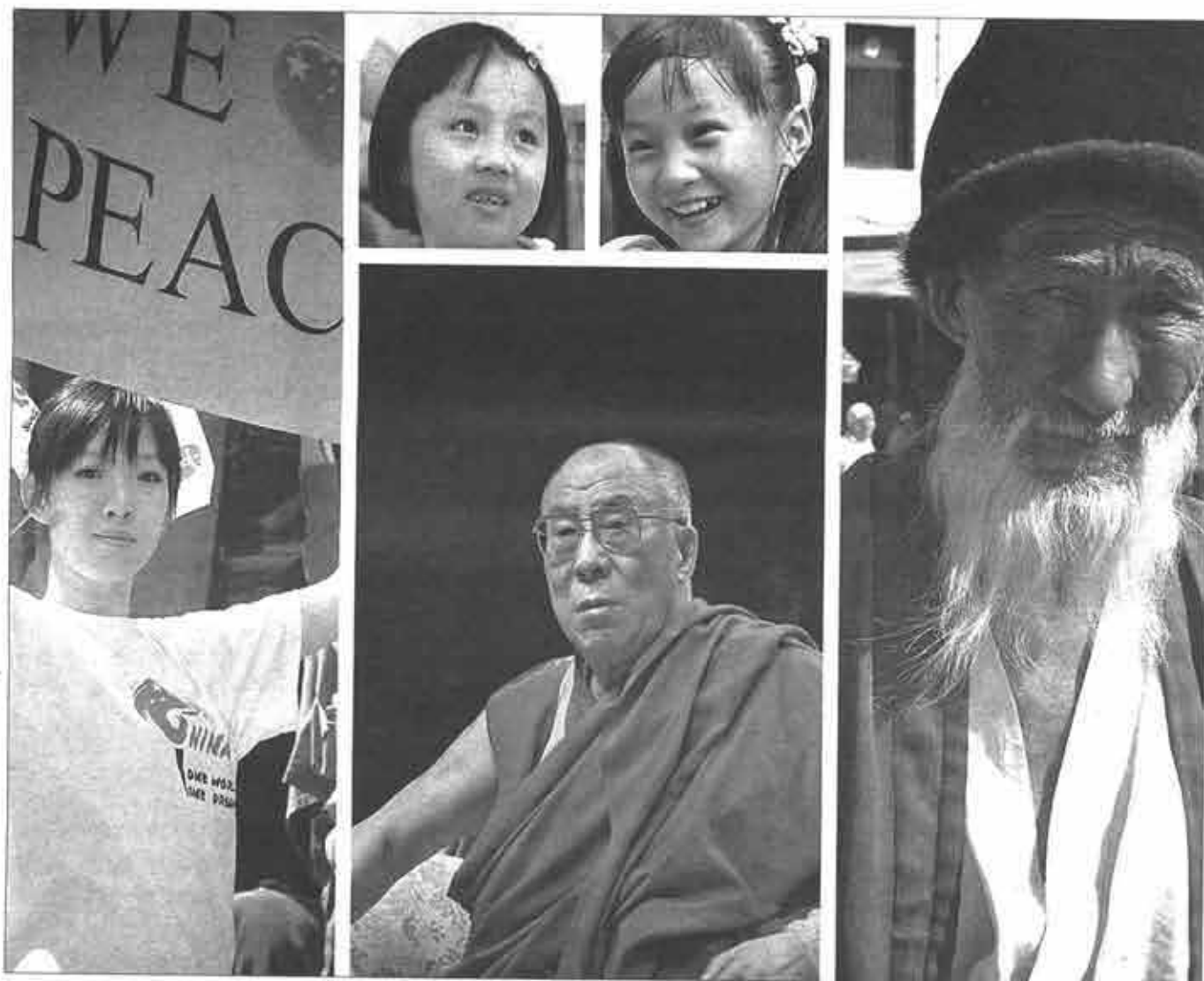
PAULA MILLAR
STAFF WRITER

Playing host to the 2008 Summer Olympic Games has propelled Beijing onto the world stage. The watchful eyes of the global community have tempted some Chinese groups, like the ethnic Uighurs, to capitalize on a media frenzy; never before imaginable in such a government-regulated society.

Since the Games' commencement, Al Jazeera has reported three separate and deadly attacks leaving 31 dead, marking the deadliest upsurge the historically turbulent Xinjiang province has experienced in years.

Well-documented government oppression of Muslim Uighurs of Western China has ingrained their long-held resentments against Beijing. The Uighur minority, blamed by government officials for recent terrorist attacks, feel that they are victims of cultural repression extending to exclusion from jobs and educational opportunities.

Yitzhak Shichor, a political scientist and China specialist at the University of Haifa warns, "I think following the Olympics, there will be a crackdown in Xinjiang like never before." According to the Associated Press, Shichor believes that "after the Olympics, they are going to settle accounts."



AGGRESSIVE INNOCENCE - (Clockwise from left) A woman protests in New York; Lin Miaoke's voice and Yang Peiyi's face; Muslim Uighur man in traditional dress; The Dalai Lama explains visions of a peaceful world.

World leaders place a critical eye on China

PAULA MILLAR
STAFF WRITER

China's stance in the world has changed dramatically over the past decades and today the nation's super power status is undeniable.

AS CHINA'S POWER CONTINUES TO FLOURISH, OTHER WORLD LEADERS ARE MORE FREQUENTLY FINDING THEMSELVES APPEASING BEIJING.

With a population of over one billion, domination of world economic markets, and world-class exposure at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games, China has solidified its global prominence. And as China's power continues to flourish, other

world leaders are more frequently finding themselves appeasing Beijing.

French President Sarkozy is one leader desperate to repair ties between the two nations. Sarkozy, who initially threatened to boycott the Olympic Games, has cancelled plans to meet the Dalai Lama during his stay in France. *BBC News* reports that Beijing warned Sarkozy of "serious consequences" if he did in fact meet with the spiritual leader.

China has made it clear that they place full blame on the exiled Tibetan leader for current and growing unrest in the region. Tension remains between both sides despite the Dalai Lama's support of the Olympics in Beijing.

China curbs Olympic protests with restrictions and multiple arrests

SHAGUN RANDHAWA
STAFF WRITER

Three zones were approved for protestors and campaigns during the Beijing Olympics. The only condition was to apply five days in advance to the Beijing Public Security Bureau for the right to protest in

these three parks.

Seventy-seven applications since August 1 were lodged in order to hold protests in these legal zones. Not a single application was approved. Instead, even those who expressed intention to apply were rejected and some of those able to apply have been arrested.

According to *The Guardian*, Chinese authorities sentenced two women in their 70s for applying to protest during the Olympic games. Wu Dianyan, 79 and her neighbour Wang Xiuying, 77 expressed interest in protesting against their forced eviction from their homes in 2001. They received a court or-

der from Beijing's Re-Education through Labour Commission, sentencing them to one year for "disturbing the public order." No appeals are allowed.

Sophia Richardson, Asian advocacy director of Human Rights Watch, told Reuters, "The protest application process clearly isn't about giving people greater freedom of expression, but making it easier for the police to suppress it."

However, protests were made despite the purposeful way Chinese officials were preventing open expression during the Olympics. On August 15, former Olympic athlete Nicole Rycroft from Vancouver and four others unfurled a banner outside the iconic Chinese Central television buildings in downtown Beijing with the words, "Free Tibet" in English and Chinese. Shortly after, they were all swiftly deported.

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Free tuition in Kentucky

Berea College supports its students for 10-15 hours of labour each week

MARA SILVESTRI
STAFF WRITER

With the constantly rising costs of tuition in higher-education institutions, it is hard to fathom the concept of a free education from a college in Kentucky, US.

Considering the overwhelming costs of tuition for American colleges, many student acceptance decisions can be based solely on financial costs. For many, that is why Berea College is the answer.

Berea College does not charge tuition, making it very easy for students to graduate debt-free, but applicants must abide by certain conditions – one being to accept a campus job and work at least ten hours a week.

"You can literally come to Berea with nothing but what you can carry, and graduate debt-free," said Joseph P. Bagnoli Jr., the associate provost for enrolment management. "We call it the best education money can't buy," he said to the *New York Times*.

As far as financial eligibility, Berea's approach favours low-income families, as well as students from Appalachia. Applicants are assessed using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and Berea has constructed a policy around the assessment. According to the Berea website, the 2008-09

policy "permits a maximum annual parental contribution of \$4,750."

In addition to being financially eligible, academic requirements match those of most colleges: students must be "academically promising," exude leadership qualities, and participate in extra-curricular activities.

BEREA COLLEGE DOES NOT CHARGE TUITION, MAKING IT VERY EASY FOR STUDENTS TO GRADUATE DEBT-FREE, BUT APPLICANTS MUST ABIDE BY CERTAIN CONDITIONS — ONE BEING TO ACCEPT A CAMPUS JOB...

So how does Berea manage to support its students? The answer lies in the school's \$1.1 billion endowment and strict but simple budget that the college adheres to. "Berea has no football team, co-ed dorms, hot tubs or climbing walls," states the *New York Times*. Food comes from the college farm, and all furnishings are handmade from college crafts workshops.

Although the tuition-free concept is astonishing, not all fees are covered. Students must cover annual fees for their room and board – about \$5,000. Their books and other various school supplies, along with technological needs, are also

the responsibility of the students. The campus work requirement is designed to help each student earn these costs prior to graduating.

The work requirement can be fulfilled by working "in the academic departments, administrative offices and labs, while others are assigned to the college farm, the workshops that make and sell traditional mountain crafts (its handmade brooms, especially, are well-known treasures) or the college-owned hotel, which anchors the town square," reports the *New York Times*.

The concept of the elite has been spared as Berea's unique approach caters to making all students feel accepted. Berea was "founded in 1855 as the first interracial and co-educational college in the South," its website explains. Berea has a higher student-to-faculty ratio than most institutions in the US, and primarily serves the Appalachian region and the state of Kentucky, where 75 percent of its students are from, states the Berea College website. The remainder of the population is composed of racial minorities and International students.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

REAP WHAT YOU SEW - Contributing time for education in return.

Berea is widely recognized for providing a quality education for its students. In fact, the Berea website proudly announced that alumnus John Fenn was rewarded a Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2002. Berea alumni also include former US Secretary of Commerce Juanita M. Kreps; Tony Award-winner Tharon Musser, and automotive engineer and designer Jack Roush, owner of Roush Racing.

By serving under-represented students, Berea College focuses on underprivileged people that might have otherwise been overlooked by college institutions for lack of wealth. According to a *Fox News* report, student Enchanta Jackson believes that Berea students have the advantage towards "more of an open mind" and "broad consciousness," better preparing them for the real world.

Georgian war spurs worldwide attention



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

RUSSIAN INVASION - A soldier dishonours the ceasefire agreement.

Russian troops relocated in an attempt to withhold their agreement to ceasefire but still manage to surround South Ossetia

ALISON SCHOFIELD
CORD INTERNATIONAL

A crisis in the former soviet country of Georgia began on August 7, when Georgian forces attacked the region of South Ossetia, an area in northern Georgia along the Russian border. The region of South Ossetia had started a separatist movement in a quest of independence from the small European country, leading Georgia to show their disapproval through violent force. Upon this, Russian troops entered the region to protect many of the civilians there that apparently hold Russian passports.

Within the first 48 hours of the attack on Georgian separatists, Russian tanks had invaded the country. The cities of Gori and Poti in central Georgia found themselves under attack by overhead bombs, reported the *London Telegraph*. Russia then led its Black Sea Fleet to block up Georgia's ports and forced much of the Georgian opposition on land into retreat, isolating the city of Gori from the western provinces and essentially cutting it off from incoming supplies.

Before noon on August 12, Rus-

sian President Dmitry Medvedev declared a ceasefire of Russian forces and five days later, Russia planned to pull troops out of Georgia, with the exception of Russian peacekeepers in the region of South Ossetia where the conflict first began.

However, the Associated Press reports that although Russian forces did retreat from their positions held days earlier, their next move was to continue to build up their forces around the region of South Ossetia and another separatist region called Abkhazia. This move along with Georgia's claims that Russia is trying to capture these two regions certainly suggests that this crisis is not yet over. French President Nicolas Sarkozy has said that EU leaders will gather to discuss the crisis, now that Russia's most recent actions have demonstrated ignorance to its previous commitments to withdraw from Georgia.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made a visit to Georgia to speak with Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili on Friday, August 15 to discuss the conflict in South Ossetia. Then, on Sunday, the first of three US Navy destroyers arrived in

the Black Sea port of Batumi, bringing in 55 tons of necessary hygiene items, baby food, bottled water and other humanitarian aid. Rice's visit to the country was to signify that the two countries would stand in solidarity.

"Russia will pay a price. We will look seriously with our allies and bilaterally at the consequences of this Russian action ... Georgia will rebuild, Russia's reputation may not be rebuilt," said Rice, as reported by the *London Telegraph* on the morning of Monday, August 18.

However, the Associated Press reports that although Russian forces have indeed retreated from their positions held days earlier, their next move is still relatively unpredictable.

As one CNN newscaster reported, "the relatively unknown region of South Ossetia is one that was unrecognizable until the outbreak of fighting." The newscaster then proceeded to compare this to the then little known city of Sarajevo and the beginnings of the First World War, insinuating that this could be the beginning of a major world conflict.

Globalization and Uncivil Society

50 academics from across the world came together to Waterloo for three days to discuss hot topics regarding global governance

HEATHER MACDONALD
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

50 academics from 25 countries met last week for a three-day conference at The Waterloo Inn to exchange ideas on their specified area of study through the presentation of their papers. The Globalization Studies Network Conference, organized by The Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), discussed uncivil society with many sub-topics including global governance, pop culture, transnational crime, terrorism and violence, as well as human, drug and arms trafficking.

Co-ordinators Ramesh Thakur and Dr. Jorge Heine, both Distinguished Fellows at CIGI and Political Science professors at the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University, respectively, had been organizing the conference for approximately a year because of the immense planning needed.

Heine was hoping for "all sorts of sparks" to emerge from this particular "meeting of minds." He feels that it is necessary for academics to exchange ideas about their studies so that everyone involved can "really benefit from [their] own work, [their] own papers, [their] own articles and books."

But why would they choose to congregate in Waterloo of all places? "We [at CIGI] think that Canada provides a very good place for people to meet. A time where meeting in the US, for example, is becoming increasingly difficult. There are so many restrictions," Heine explained. "Canada is a country that has a good image. In many ways it is a very attractive place for people to come and meet."

Women against war

In a morning session on Tuesday, scholars from South Africa, The Philippines and Brazil explained their papers on peoples' move-

ments, particularly women in popular culture.

Sarah Raymondo from the University of Philippines, expressed her concern with the representation of women in the workforce as seen in certain films. Many of them "introduce women as modern slaves," Raymondo says, making reference to the women in such movies, "often calling their employers masters."

Ms. Grazielle Furtado of Rio de Janeiro stood out amongst the panel of speakers when she talked about women as victims of war. Furtado spoke of a women's movement in Columbia that has spread throughout the world called Mujeres DeNegro (Women in Black).

These women feel that "if we're being displaced by war, we'll displace ourselves," but in a safer, non-violent way. Through different art forms like photography and music, the women are able to express their stance against the recent rise in violence.

Furtado told a story of the women refusing to speak to a man that approached their bus for standard checkups, simply because he was an armed official.

Mbeki's legacy

Lunch-time at a conference like this is a hotspot for open debates on current events and shameless self-promotion. Aside from business cards and books being tossed around in every direction, Dr. Garth le Pere, Executive Director at the Institute for Global Dialogue in South Africa delivered his keynote speech on President Thabo Mbeki's legacy.

Mbeki stepped into power in 1999, in an attempt to fill the shoes of South Africa's most effective leader, Nelson Mandela. As President Mbeki's second five-year term is coming to a close this spring, many are wondering what his legacy will be.

"In a call to African leadership," Dr. Garth le Pere explained that "developing a post-Mandela democracy was held in the early years of Mbeki's reign."

Because South Africa is a leading African state, Mbeki's time in presidency meant dealing with issues such as HIV/AIDS and the crisis in Zimbabwe, "deeply affecting South Africa's international and domestic perceptions."

Dr. le Pere stated that there were still major faults in Mbeki's time as president. With increasing awareness on HIV/AIDS - South Africa having the largest level of occurrence - public eyes have turned towards its leader.

"Yet, the blemishes on Mbeki's presidency should not mask his contribution to South Africa," expressed Dr. le Pere. Most people at the conference questioned how anyone could follow the reign of Nelson Mandela.

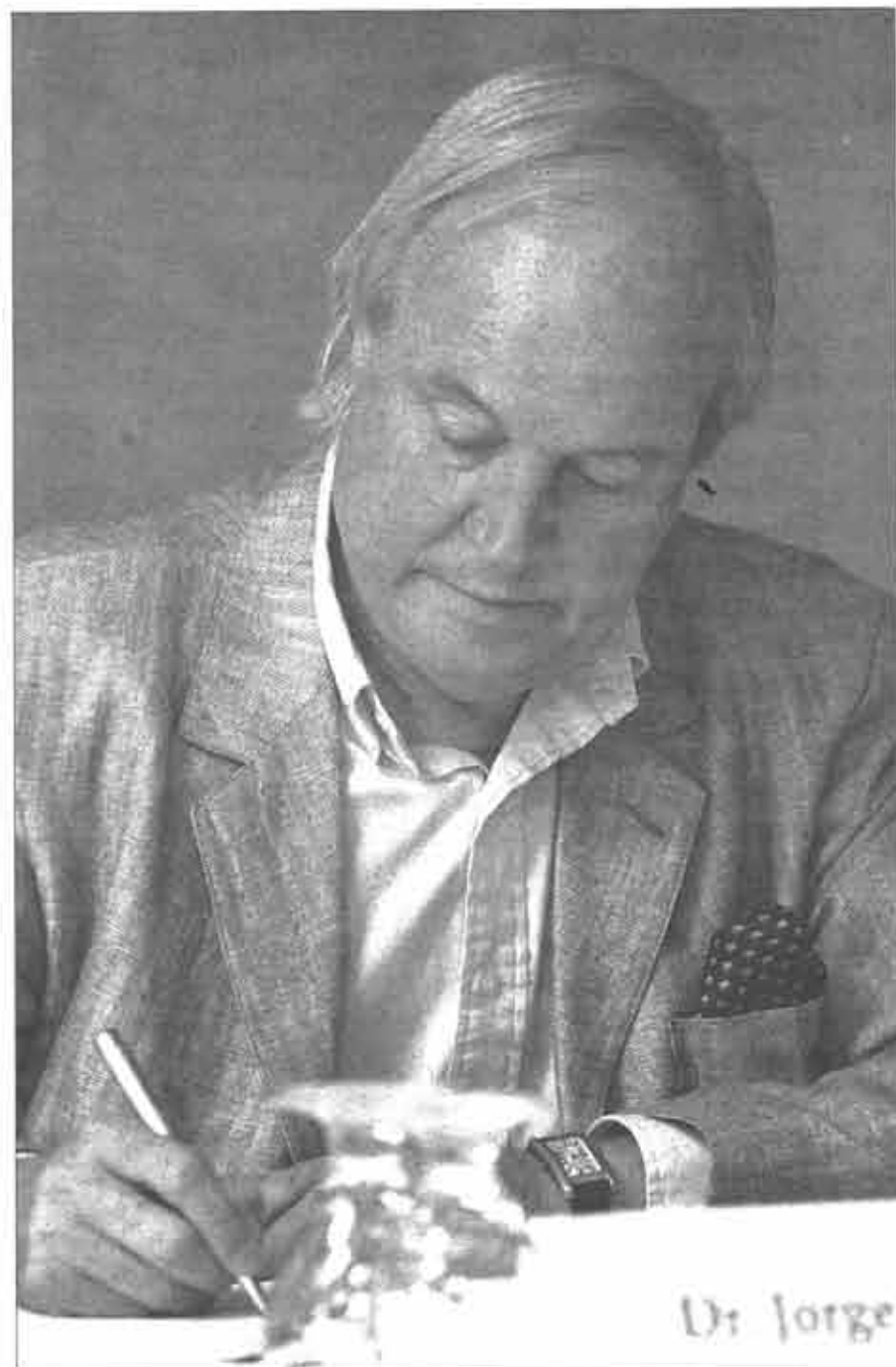
Transnational crimes

Later that day, a panel consisting of academics from the Caribbean discussed security concerns among those involved with globalizing organized crime.

Agreed among the panel was the fact that there is a lack of coordination and a limited number of armed forces needed to gain better control over criminals engaged in drug, firearm and human trafficking.

Dr. Suzette Haughton of the University of the West Indies laid out some statistics: cocaine, as a major industry, profits \$4.8 billion per year. Likewise, there are over 800,000 victims of human trafficking, with profits reaching \$12 billion US. Dr. Haughton continued, "Jamaica has the highest murder rate in the world and most are done so involving guns."

Everyone on the panel seemed to agree that Jamaica has the "most creative criminals." Ms. Dana Ma-



SYDNEY HELLAND

PERCEPTIVE PROF - Dr. Heine makes notes on conference papers.

Contemporary terrorism

rie Morris and Dr. Lucy Eugene, also both from the University of the West Indies, went on to discuss money laundering and its tactics to conform to globalization.

Morris explained that many money launderers have moved from the Caribbean to North America and sometimes even the UK. Despite Jamaica's severe involvement in this organized crime, Dr. Eugene is baffled that the US finds Canada more of a threat when it comes to money laundering.

Perhaps the most exciting session of the conference was held on Wednesday morning. A few professors, a doctor and a reverend gathered together in the Heritage room at the Waterloo Inn to engage in conversation about terrorism, particularly, post-9/11.

Ms. Rekha Chowdhary of Kashmir, India, feels that "9/11 has revamped terrorism." She says that since September 11, 2001, many people have been using "terrorism as an active tool to target anything." This is a reason why many, including Prof. Zhang Jiadong, believe that "terrorism is now more religious than ever."

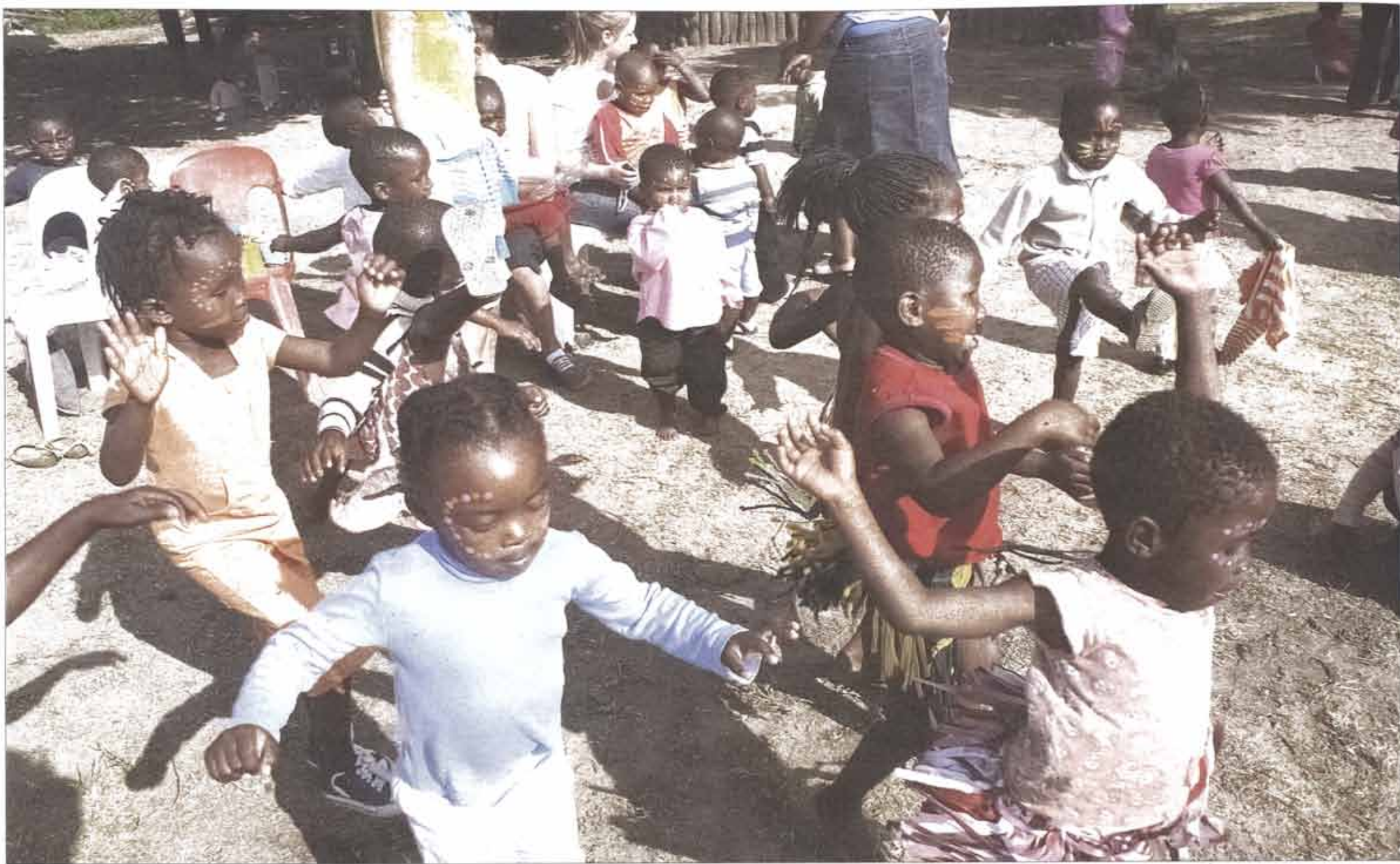
During the question-and-answer period, M.J. Akbar, Editor-in-Chief at *Covert Magazine* in India and keynote speaker at the conference, described his concern with the world's view on the identity of terrorists. Akbar explained that there are many terrorist groups in Hindu regions but the media does not relate these groups to Hinduism, yet so many people relate Islam to terrorist groups that evolve from Muslim regions. Akbar explains that this is an inaccurate and unfair description.

Dr. Thakur then closed the discussion by suggesting a need for "globalization of policy-making" as a means for decreasing violence and terrorism.



PHOTOS BY SYDNEY HELLAND

MEETING OF MINDS - Professor Sukh Deo Muni, Associate Professor Zhang Jiadong and UW Professor Ramesh Thakur discuss terrorism.



ALANNA WALLACE

RAMBLING ON - Young children in Khula Village, South Africa, take part in a traditional Zulu dance. The region is deeply affected by the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Africa and AIDS: surviving against odds

Alanna Wallace spent a month at a South African daycare centre and medical clinic, gaining a first-hand observation of the impact of HIV/AIDS. With the severe lack of awareness inherent in the region, the people of KwaZulu-Natal are suffering

ALANNA WALLACE
INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM
GRANT RECIPIENT

It's early morning at the Senzangethemba Orphan Day Care in Khula Village, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. "Rasta," as he's known here, begins the support group he helped form for individuals who have been deeply affected by the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic.

In this village alone, it is believed that between 70 and 80 percent of the population is infected, and Rasta and his team from the non-governmental organization African Impact attempt to teach those at the support group how to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Rasta tries not to give up hope. He battled tuberculosis for two years before discovering he was HIV-positive. He is one of the few individuals brave enough to publicly declare his HIV status, and he has now dedicated himself to an awareness he says is crucial in the fight against the epidemic. But as he quite frankly puts it, "there is much more to be done here, much more suffering to be done here..."

In KwaZulu-Natal, antiretroviral (ARV) treatment is only given to those individuals diagnosed with full-blown AIDS. That's to say, they only receive treatment when their CD4 (fighter cell) count has reached below 200 and their immune system is then unable to fight

infection.

Located on the eastern shore just below Mozambique, this South African province is estimated to have one of the highest TB/HIV co-infection burdens on the continent combined with low treatment success rates for TB. It is estimated that its HIV prevalence rate is somewhere around 40 percent of the general population, making it globally one of the highest infected areas.

Monzi Clinic is just one of the many examples of KwaZulu-Natal's faltering healthcare system.

Sixty-year-old registered nurse and midwife Cynthia Mzinyane has been running the Monzi Clinic for over eight years now. Her clinic services about nine different communities.

"I am the doctor here," she says, calling attention to her lack of staffing. There are no doctors at this clinic, only two professional nurses, two staff nurses and one general assistant.

The nearest hospital has enough beds for the sick, but only eight practicing doctors. With this small team, Cynthia has administered 220 rounds of ARV medications this past May. She says most of her patients say they are too poor to eat when they take their medications; a concern echoed by most NGOs worldwide, including Doctors Without Borders.

Her biggest complaint is the deteriorating condition of her clinic;

the worst of this is the floor, which is so ridden with holes it has become unsterile, housing deadly TB bacteria. Standing in the dirt hole that was once tile floor, she asks "What can I do? I just have to cope..."

Monzi Clinic runs pre-natal, chronic and family clinics weekly. Monthly visits from special doctors are unreliable and short. Deliveries of prescriptions and medications she says are also unreliable. The clinic lacks space, supplies and staff. As she speaks, a line of

patients have come to the clinic after hours with various illnesses. Cynthia sees about 100 patients per day during her work hours, and she works overtime every day even though the government refuses her overtime pay. "It's a risk," she says, about having to close after her nine-hour day is done; "I'd rather stay on."

The clinic also provides counselling to all those who are tested, whether their results are positive or negative. A new public program

has been started called "mothers to mothers" in an attempt to create awareness regarding mother-to-child transmission.

Cynthia joked that there must soon be "fathers to fathers," though she doubts any man would attend. She says that counselling and education are the most important tools in the fight against the HIV epidemic; they are the only way to fight stigma, discrimination, and the spread of infection.

South Africa's record of fighting



ALANNA WALLACE

"MUCH MORE SUFFERING TO BE DONE" - An HIV-positive man known as "Rasta" helped form a support group, despite the negative social stigma attached to being public about his HIV status.

"DO WHITE PEOPLE GET HIV?"

- A woman's question during the weekly HIV education program in Khula village

the epidemic is less than stellar. Under apartheid, as HIV was spreading through the continent, nothing was done to suppress it. When Nelson Mandela was elected president, the African National Congress' new government was forced to focus on economic issues. Nonetheless, by this time HIV had a strong hold on the nation's population.

To make matters worse, in 1999 when Thabo Mbeki was elected President, he surrounded himself with HIV deniers. He made speeches claiming ARV drugs were poison, and publicly questioned the accuracy of HIV tests at the International AIDS Conference the next year. He now refuses to do interviews on the subject.

The lacklustre involvement by the government in the fight against HIV/AIDS has led many people in KwaZulu-Natal to doubt the severity of the issue. There has yet to be an individual at African Impact's HIV education that knows any HIV prevalence statistics.

Mpho, who is a single mother of three living in Khula, said that at her Nazareth church visitors often come making announcements saying that the West has a cure for HIV, but they won't hand it over to Africa.

Future leader of the ruling party, and most likely the next President, Jacob Zuma is from KwaZulu-Natal province. Two years ago he was acquitted of rape, and claimed he did not use a condom but instead

showered to protect himself from HIV.

In a nation with a history of charismatic leaders like Nelson Mandela, and with the experience of a period of relative stability after apartheid, it is difficult for many South Africans not to believe their educated politicians.

In Khula village, with a 70-80 percent prevalence rate, a woman in her thirties inquires, "Do white people get HIV?" She is part of an HIV education program run by African Impact. Here, mostly women attend the weekly sessions, though they, like Cynthia, criticize men for their ignorance regarding HIV.

Rasta, who has been living with HIV for the last ten years, explained why he believes men do not attend the education sessions as frequently as women. "Women is the mother," he says. "They like to work hard. They like to know."

However, the truth is that HIV transmission is more likely to occur from male to female, and not the other way around. And unfortunately, in a patriarchal society like that of the province's Zulu culture, women are generally blamed and stigmatized.

One woman complained that neighbours will, "laugh on the corners about you" if your HIV positive status is known. Another woman said, "If I went home and told my boyfriend I was HIV positive, he would run and never come back." It is these negative attitudes that per-



ALANNA WALLACE

TEARS - S'fiso, a boy in the Senzangethemba Day Care Centre, cries after his brother is taken to hospital.

petuate the stigmatization and the societal breakdown that accompanies the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Having graduated from their course, the women still maintained that they would not want to know their HIV status out of fear.

African Impact's HIV education in schools is also an ongoing program. Thirteen students had been chosen to complete the five day course by their headmaster. He explains that he chose them because he is certain they are all sexually active.

Their ages range from twelve to fourteen, and all live in Khula village. They complain about being given a pre-test at the start of the course, saying they all know everything there is to know about HIV/AIDS - there is no way they can't ace the test.

The results of their tests were shocking. Even after receiving HIV education in their schools, the students still did not even have a basic

understanding about HIV transmission. Of these thirteen students, eight believed they could not contract HIV during oral sex. Another eight thought if they only had sex with one partner they would be safe from infection. Ten thought only periodic use of a condom was needed as protection, and nine believed that if they tested HIV-negative, they were immune to the virus.

Zandile Mtshaly, at age 12 asked in private "How do I stop a baby from being in my tummy, like the other girls?" One lesson on contraceptives is interrupted by a male teacher who disagrees with teaching the girls how to put on a condom. The lack of resources and education is blatantly related to the discomfort of discussing intimate details of life and, most importantly in the given situation, sex.

Offering counselling on living positively, one woman sadly explained, "Even if you have HIV, you

are still a human being." It is clear that in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, not everyone is seen as a human being, especially if they have been diagnosed with HIV. HIV/AIDS uncovers the skeletons in the closets of societies and is perpetuated and mirrored by them.

The lack of political support for the fight against the epidemic, coupled with a depleted healthcare and educational system, has led to the rapid spread of the disease in the province.

It is difficult to explain the detrimental effect the HIV/AIDS epidemic has had socially on KwaZulu-Natal. Rasta expressed that people have forgotten that "they must be love, must be friendship."

But as human beings, Zulu culture and Zulu people's lives have become rooted in a global epidemic that touches them not only physically with the 1500 plus who die every day, but in the way that they perceive their own existence.

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University is certainly a place where any fun-loving student can find

Features Editor **Kari Pritchard** deals out a hand of us

It's finally here: orientation week and the beginning of what's bound to be another late night, early morning and party-filled school year. With so many options weighing on your mind (The Turret or Phil's? Mixed drinks or beer? Taken or single?) you'll be making decisions left, right and centre. Now, before you run off into the land of impaired judgment, check out this trusty guide to steer you in the direction of making decisions you won't soon regret.

On Campus

If you're a student at Wilfrid Laurier University (WLU), you're bound to go out and party on campus at some point in your university career. Although students are always welcome on campus, some partying can get out of hand.

For many first-year students, university may appear as a new, different world with different rules... rules that allow underage drinking. This is not true, as general manager of WLUSU (which operates Wilf's and The Turret) Michael McMahon explains.

For underage students, "It's their first realization that this is a community that has community standards that [...] are actually the standards in the province, the same as where these students came from," says McMahon.

Despite the legal drinking age being nineteen, students are still bound to try and drink underage on campus. McMahon has an answer for this: "On nightclub nights, people under nineteen are not going to be able to come and visit The Turret

nightclub."

Although Wilf's is still open to students of all ages, McMahon explains that staff will be checking ID at the point of purchase and not just at the door. As annoying as this change may be, it will help prevent the issue of serving alcohol to minors, or the over consumption of alcohol by anybody. Wilf's also checks your OneCard to match it with your ID.

DON'T PRE-DRINK TOO MUCH, AND MAKE SURE YOU BRING LIMITED CASH WITH YOU TO THE BAR SO YOU DON'T OVER DO IT THERE EITHER.

Alright, so you're under nineteen and you can't get served on campus. What do you do? Well, pre-drinking is bound to happen, but be sure to take the right precautions to ensure a night of fun.

Don't pre-drink too much, and make sure you bring limited cash with you to the bar so you don't over do it there either. If a student arrives "at a WLUSU facility having just consumed a large quantity of alcohol and if affects them once they are in the room [...] we make sure that they have safe transport back to their home," says McMahon.

You won't get a glorious ride home in a golden carriage (like you would remember at this point anyways), but at least you know you'll be getting home safe and sound from campus, which is more than local pubs or bars offer students.

Whether you're partying on or off campus, always make sure you have somebody to walk with, and remember that nobody is too cool to call Foot Patrol. If you get into trouble by yourself on campus on your way home, don't be afraid to use the emergency poles. Special Constable Chris Hancocks describes that when you push the button, "it is a direct link to our dispatcher and then we respond immediately to that pole."

By the time you make it safely home, if you've been drinking past your limit, make sure you load up on water and set your alarm if you need to before you hit the sack.

Alas, safety on campus is not just about drinking within reason. Accidents happen on campus, too, and when they do, don't hesitate to call the Emergency Response Team (ERT). ERT Co-coordinator of the 2007-2008 school year Andrew Blake says that students shouldn't be afraid to get in touch with the student-run emergency services. "If you call ERT they're not there to get students in trouble [...] they're just there to help someone out who has been hurt or is sick," says Blake.

ERT promotes safety, providing first aid courses for the community, patrolling campus and offering additional coverage to any on-campus event.

By-laws are another reminder to students to keep their partying in check. People can receive fines for being drunk in public, or carrying open alcohol. Although some fines



GRAPHIC BY JULIE MARION AND SYDNEY HELLAND

ds right at university

a good time, but sometimes having fun can have its repercussions.
 useful advice for students fighting for their right to party

are more than others, the biggest concern is towards public urination. It doesn't matter how much you've got to go, it's against the law and isn't worth it unless you're willing to pay the \$300 fine that goes along with the embarrassment of getting caught. The no-peeing policy applies off-campus as well as on, so if you need to let the juices flow on King St., just beware of the repercussions.

Some fines are quite expensive and often too much for the average, broke, living-off-of-Kraft-Dinner university student. But not all hope is lost, as there are options for reducing the ticket. You can plea guilty, give the justice of the peace an explanation or ask for a trial in the matter if you're really strapped for cash.

Fourth year psychology and communications major student Shawn Fergusson has first-hand experience reducing fines. "Accept the charge with an excuse," says Fergusson – like you're a student that cannot afford a hefty fine. "Then the judge will generally reduce your sentence." Fergusson got his fine cut in half, and was also given six to eight months to pay it.

So, fines can be reduced, but your best option is to steer clear of the inappropriate behaviour that got you the fine in the first place or be willing to cough up the dough.

Off Campus

If partying under the rules and regulations on campus is bringing you down, there's always the option of trying to have fun elsewhere. Though there are always keggers around campus for the first few weeks of school (check out Ezra, Bricker or Marshall street), remember that the local police will break up any underage drinking.

Living off-campus in your own house with all your friends may seem like a dream come true, but you've still got to watch your back. Throwing a house warming party is a great idea but be wary of the consequences that may arise.

During Orientation Week and early September, Executive Officer of the Waterloo Regional Police Bryan Larkin describes that, "One of the things we do is bring in more police officers [...] centred around the universities [and] main areas of student housing." On top of producing more officers, during September the police service is on the job 24/7. What does this mean for you? Have fun, but try to keep it in check.

The police are not always out to get you and bust up your party, explains Larkin. "One of the things that concerns us is the number of people that end up at a house party or on a balcony [...] there are legitimate safety concerns there," states Larkin, adding that house parties are difficult to control and usually grow beyond what the host expects.

Boring as it may seem, it is wise to invite some sober friends or friends of friends to keep others from getting *too* wild and crazy.

But so what? You want to have the biggest, baddest party and don't give a hoot who knows. Well actually, your wallet might. If your bumpin' party gets too out of control, you can get hit with a noise complaint.

"Noise by-laws are in effect twenty-four hours a day. If [your party] affects your neighbors in any way, you will be spoken to and/or charged," says Wilfrid Laurier University's special constable Chris Hancocks.

Although noise complaints can be handed out 24/7, they must be supported by evidence (e.g. a mosh pit on your front lawn) and can be avoided. Something as easy as letting your neighbors know you're having a party can save you the approximate \$300 fine and let you spend that cash on more important things like books, or more beer.

On top of regular parties, keg parties will undoubtedly also be taking place – where you can pay for cheap, kegged beer. Keggers are a lot of fun and can be a great way to potentially

make some cash, but beware, as they are one hundred percent illegal.

Larkin credits the reduction of some keg parties to the reality of doing law enforcement: "People realize we are going to come seize the keg [and] lay charges." You'll be out of beer, money and maybe even some friends: are you willing to take the risk?

There are also various bars and pubs available to students off-campus that can be just as fun (and sometimes more) than on-campus locations. April Vezpaly,

a supervisor at Failte's Irish Pub located on King street, wants students to enjoy themselves but have respect. Fake IDs will work at some places but don't push your luck. Vezpaly advises that "We do have a scanner, [so] when we do scan certain cards we're not sure of, it will show up," advised Vezpaly.

If you don't have proper ID that is widely accepted (a driver's license or passport), Vezpaly suggests to "go to the liquor store and get a BYID card." The BYID card, or bring your identification card, costs \$20 at the LCBO and is credited as a form of photo ID.

While drinking establishments can level with students wanting to have fun, remember that pubs are often smaller and more low-key than bars or clubs. If you take it too far and you're asked to leave, Vezpaly advises you to use whatever judgment you have left and leave willingly. Students who are escorted out on a sour note have been known to vandalize Failte's property or wreak havoc through the streets in a drunken stupor. If you do happen to make an ass out of yourself at Failte's, Vezpaly invites customers to come back again once they've sobered up and calmed down.

Bars and clubs off-campus often offer a higher capacity, like the Fox and Fiddle on King Street. Just like at Failte's, server Jessica Kohlsmith explains that at The Fox, ID is checked "Pretty much every night [...] we have bouncers checking IDs from 9:00 p.m. on." Just like on campus, every bar has its busy nights. "During frosh week we have lineups so come relatively early before it gets really packed and have your ID ready," suggests Kohlsmith.

Rowdy and inappropriate behaviour is discouraged at all bars, and The Fox is no exception. On top of rowdy behaviour, server Shannon Twigger of The Fox advises that, "If someone is sexually inappropriate to the bartenders or servers, the bouncers will always take our side as long as it's a legitimate reason."

**"NOISE BY-LAWS ARE IN EFFECT
 TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY. IF [YOUR
 PARTY] AFFECTS YOUR NEIGHBOURS IN
 ANY WAY, YOU WILL BE SPOKEN TO AND/
 OR CHARGED,"**

- Chris Hancocks, WLU Special Constable

Although at the time you might think you can talk yourself out of getting the boot, you're not tougher than the bouncer and they have the ultimate say. If you're still causing a stink about being escorted out, Kohlsmith adds that if it gets too crazy, the police can be called.

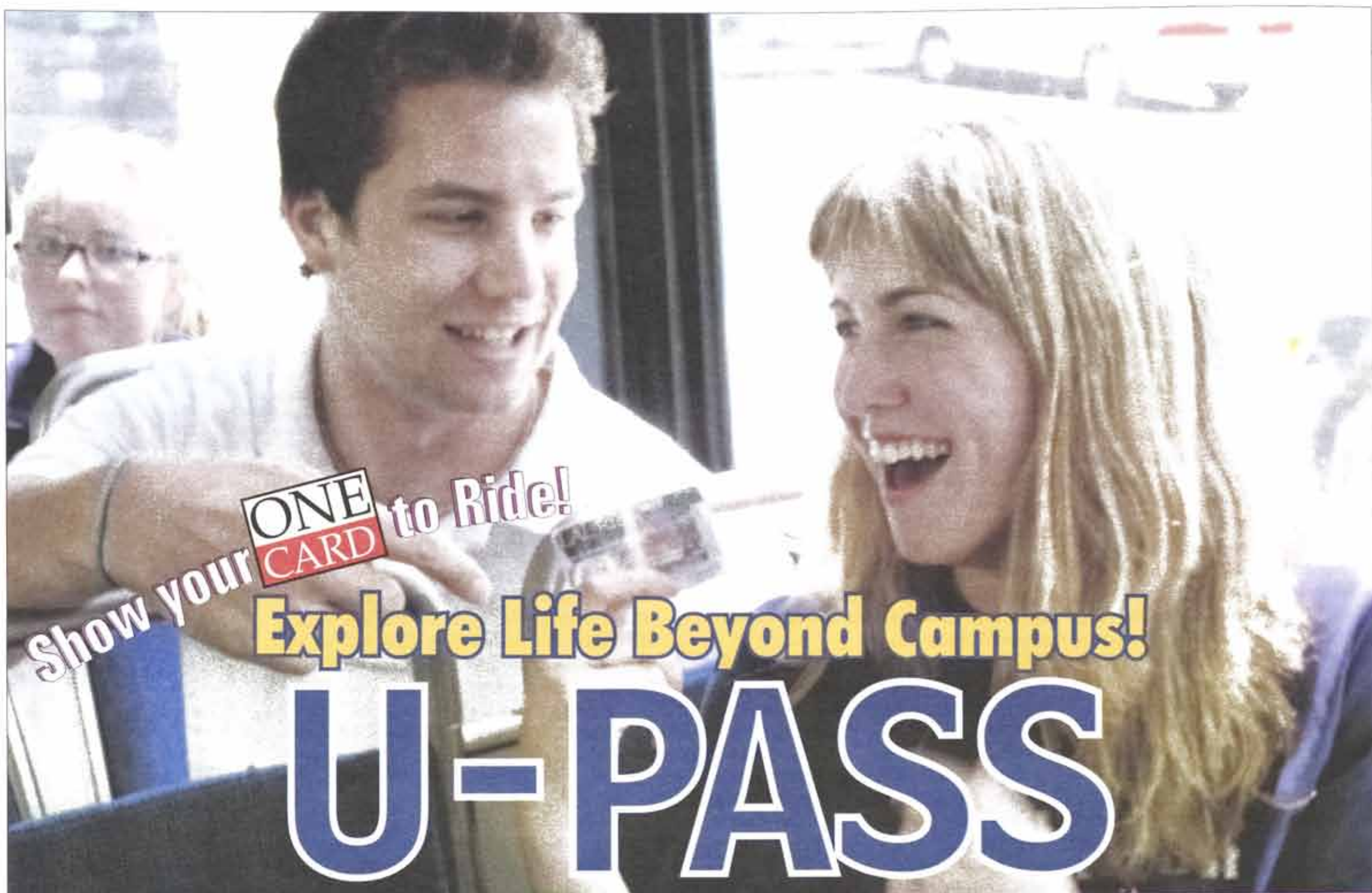
Getting into trouble off campus isn't just related to partying, but also being smart, aware and safe in your new humble abode.

Kaye Crawford, Manager of Community Relations for the City of Waterloo, has noted a recent increase in theft in student residences, and advises students to lock their doors when they leave home. You should also be wary of strange house-party guests — at your home or a friend's.

Crawford also suggests to "Know what your landlord expects of you in terms of maintenance," suggests Crawford, which means you should make sure you are provided with the right equipment to meet certain by-laws.

Things like a functioning fridge and toilet are two of the most important ingredients to a house party, so one by-law to keep in mind is the property standards by-law. If you have a problem in your home that your landlord won't fix, you can ask the city to give your landlord a legal order to help.





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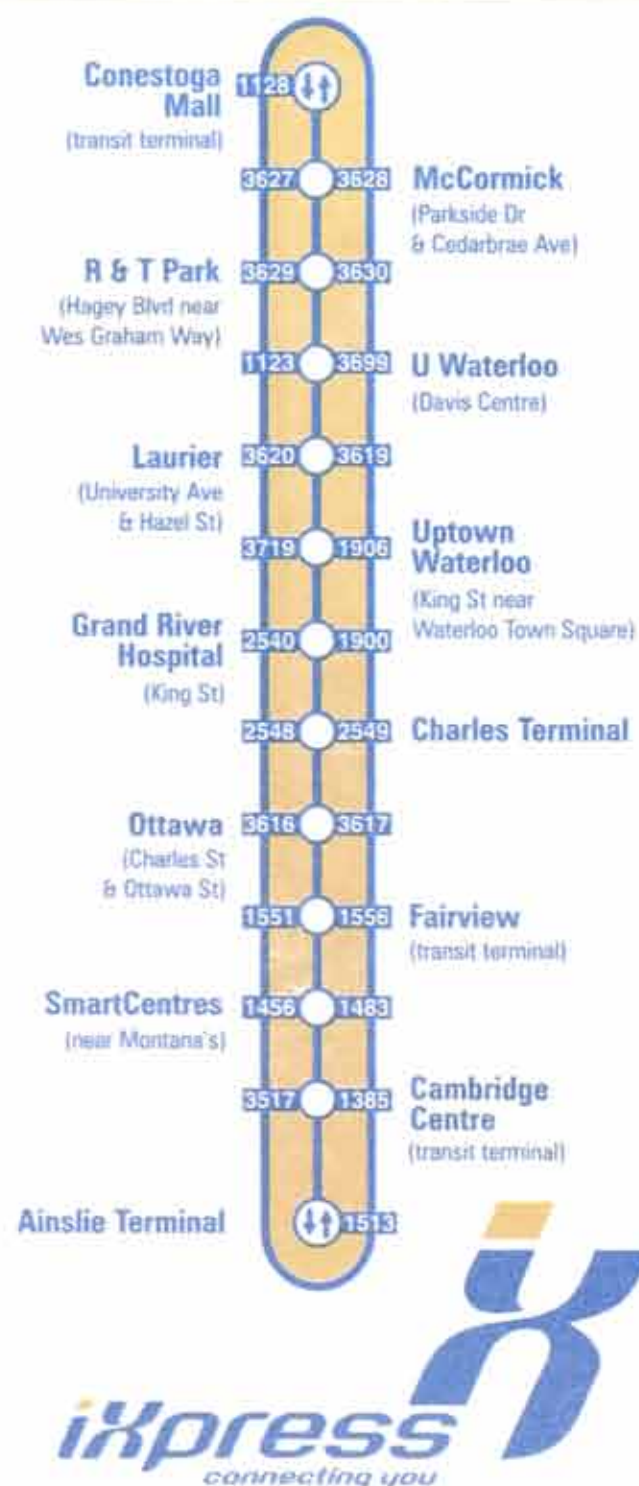
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Ennio's eatery delivers good value

The Italian restaurant on King Street provides a hearty three-course meal for two for a price that won't break the bank

FOODREVIEW

Ennio's: B

MICHELLE CALDARONI
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

Summer has passed, and students are happily making the trek back to Laurier for another school year full of new opportunities and challenges. These challenges may or may not include cooking for yourself, but surely they include the feat of deciding what you're going to eat next.

After years of enjoying mom and dad's homecookin', you might be shocked to realize that you have no idea how to prepare nutritious meals for yourself. Luckily, *The Cord Weekly* is here to give you monthly reviews of some of KW's most student budget-friendly restaurants.

This semester will kick off with the Italian-style restaurant known as Ennio's, located on King St. N, just north of Columbia St. With ample parking, bus stops located nearby, and a location close to WLU, this restaurant is accessible

for all students.

The dark interior of Ennio's was very classic and romantic, but not so inviting for those not dining in couples or there with their families. The atmosphere was nice, although too fancy for a casual meal.

The photographer and I were seated quickly by the hostesses, but were led around the side of the room to what seemed like a back hallway, and then out to the sunny patio. Luckily, the sun was shining on the fenced-in patio, which blocked the noise from the street, yet had windows for a nice view.

The waitress was very attentive, and brought the appetizer – an artichoke dip served with toasted flat bread triangles (\$7.98) – quickly to the table. The large-portioned starter was warm and nicely seasoned, although the seasoning fell off on the way to my plate. We weren't able to finish the starter before the main courses arrived.

A small starter salad was included with each main course, and was a simple but tasty addition to the dish. The main course was a half-rack of barbequed ribs (\$10.79) which were served with potato wedges and ketchup.

This dish was a good value for the



ALEX HAYTER

RIB-LICIOUS - Ennio's ribs were complemented with potato wedges and not much else – but only cost \$10.

price, although the ribs tended to be fatty. The potato wedges seemed starchy, and an odd pairing for the more classy idea of barbequed ribs. I would have liked to see a baked potato or mixed vegetables accompany the meat instead.

Although we were more than

full, it was our duty to try out a dessert for the integrity of this article. We agreed on a tiramisu made by the chef at Ennio's – instead of the cakes which are outsourced to a bakery. The dessert was delicious and fresh-tasting, sprinkled with chocolate and served in a tall ice-

cream cup.

The total came to under \$50 for two people. The starter and dessert were the best part of the meal, but perhaps for the main course we should have stuck to what Ennio's pasta house is best known for – its pasta.

Fresh Food Company gets fresh facelift

Renovations to Laurier's dining hall have been made in hopes to improve traffic flow and encourage use by Laurier students

LINDA GIVETASH
STAFF WRITER

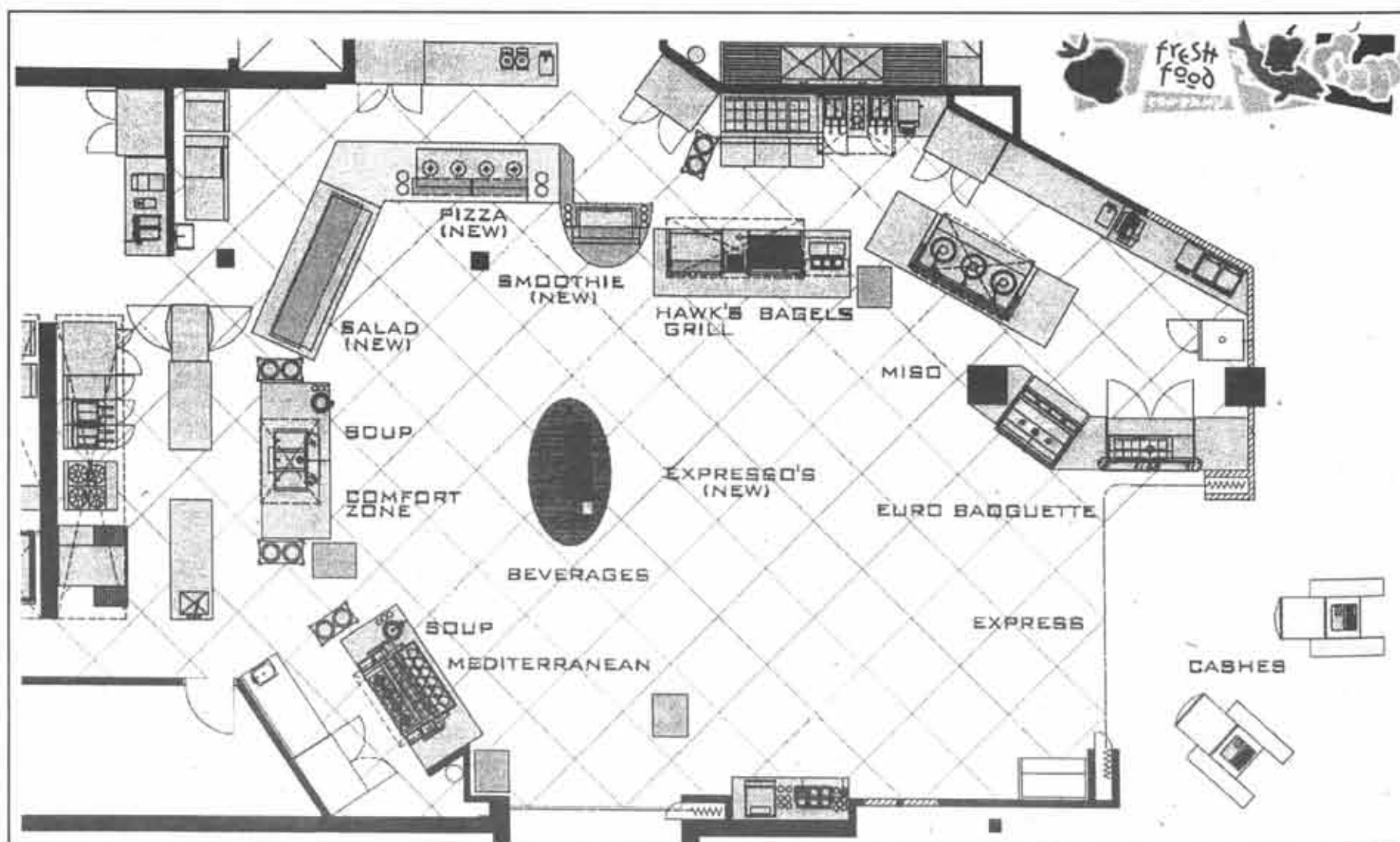
The Fresh Food Company dining hall at Laurier's Waterloo campus has been closed for construction since July 22. The renovation, to be completed in time for the fall semester, is designed to allow the food court to be more efficient and accessible to students.

The project is set with a ceiling cost of \$350,000. "That is entirely financed by our partners with Aramark. The cost will be paid back out of the operational budgets over the next eight years," explained Dan Dawson, Director of Student Services.

The new layout will allow for easier navigation and greater visibility of each section of the dining hall. "Our primary objective is to improve traffic flow," said Dawson. "It doesn't really change the menu in any substantial way. If anything, it enhances the menu."

In order to ease traffic flow, the salad bar, currently centred on the island, will be removed and integrated along the wall with the other stations. The drink coolers will also be removed and replaced with a series of smaller refrigerators.

The Pan Asia station will undergo a great deal of redesign. "The Asian station offers the best variety for our vegetarians, but it is the least effectively promoted area in the fresh food company," Dawson con-



FRESH STYLE - Dining hall renovations promise to make a more efficient facility for students, with more space to browse between food stations.

tinued. "This Asian station is going to be enhanced with a gas fire box and it's going to be called a Miso station, which is a more authentic presentation."

Other stations to undergo changes will be the smoothie and deli stations. The smoothie station will

be incorporated as a more permanent vendor in the dining hall, next to the new salad bar. The deli will replace the previous smoothie location, and it will be redesigned as a euro-baguette station with toasted sandwiches as opposed to the old panini press.

The newly redesigned Fresh Food Company should accommodate the school for at least another five years. Future plans of reconstruction in the dining hall will focus more on seating space as the university continues to grow.

For students and faculty still de-

pendent on the dining hall during the summer, the concourse cafe has been reopened. A variety of meals, including soups and sandwiches, will be available in order to accommodate their needs.

The Fresh Food Company reopened at the end of August.

Drinking Culture at WLU: Part One

Keggers



Keggers are an essential university experience for first-years and beyond — despite crappy beer and soiled washrooms. Will you attend one this year?

D.J. DEMERS
STAFF WRITER

If I were to invite you to a party at which you can drink all the alcohol you want for \$10, what would you say?

Unless you're the type of person who thinks critically and prefers to know all the information before committing to something that is seemingly too good to be true, then I can only assume you would say yes. OK, now that I've gotten you roped in, I have to tell you a couple of things.

This alcohol I refer to is beer with a taste so putrid that you may be inclined to question whether or not it has been mixed with bovine urine. And you may not have unlimited access to this beer if too many people show up. In fact, you may only get a couple of cups, and even those may be hard to obtain as you fight your way through a mass of people congregated around the filling station.

And one last thing: the party may end prematurely if certain local authorities catch wind of it. Selling alcohol without a liquor license is not exactly "legal," per se.

With all this information at your disposal, would you still want to come? Of course you would! You would still come because you know that the party I am referring to is a kegger and you are a university student. And keggers and university students go together like Facebook and loneliness! Even with all the possible negative aspects that I described, the prospect of a kegger that is unbelievably amazing is too good to pass up.

The fact of the matter is that keggers more often than not fall at two very opposite ends of the spectrum. While the worst kegger of your life will undoubtedly be an unpleasant experience, there is no question that the greatest keg party you attend will be a night of bacchanalian revelry. Flip cup, beer pong, your tongue engaging in a sloppy sort of twirling motion with someone else's. All of these things happen at a kegger.

To get a better perspective on the intricacies of keggers, I spoke with a couple of people involved with MLSB, Laurier's summer "softball" league. I use quotations not because I am a douche bag but because while MLSB is ostensibly a baseball league, its main function is to act as a purveyor of debauchery, fun, and beer. Lots and lots of beer.

How much beer, you ask? I'll let

Graham Rumble, a convener of MLSB this past spring, give you the details: "MLSB consumed 290 kegs this summer (in a 104 day period May 1 to August 12), and approximately 600 people were involved."

Tim Soroka, a recently appointed convener of next spring's MLSB season, chimes in. "But really we know that the majority of those 290 kegs were the responsibility of the fifty people that showed up to most events."

If Soroka sounds passionate about keggers, that's because he is. When asked to speak about the best and worst aspects of a kegger, he spewed out a myriad of different observations that were obviously accumulated with years of experience.

"The best part of a kegger is the unwritten rule of not leaving until the keg is done regardless of the consequences," Soroka explained.

"This rule is the catalyst for drinking games such as timed keg stands, higher/lower games with playing cards, and rock/paper/scissor games which you'd never play on a normal night but become so much more intriguing when you need to finish a keg," he continued.

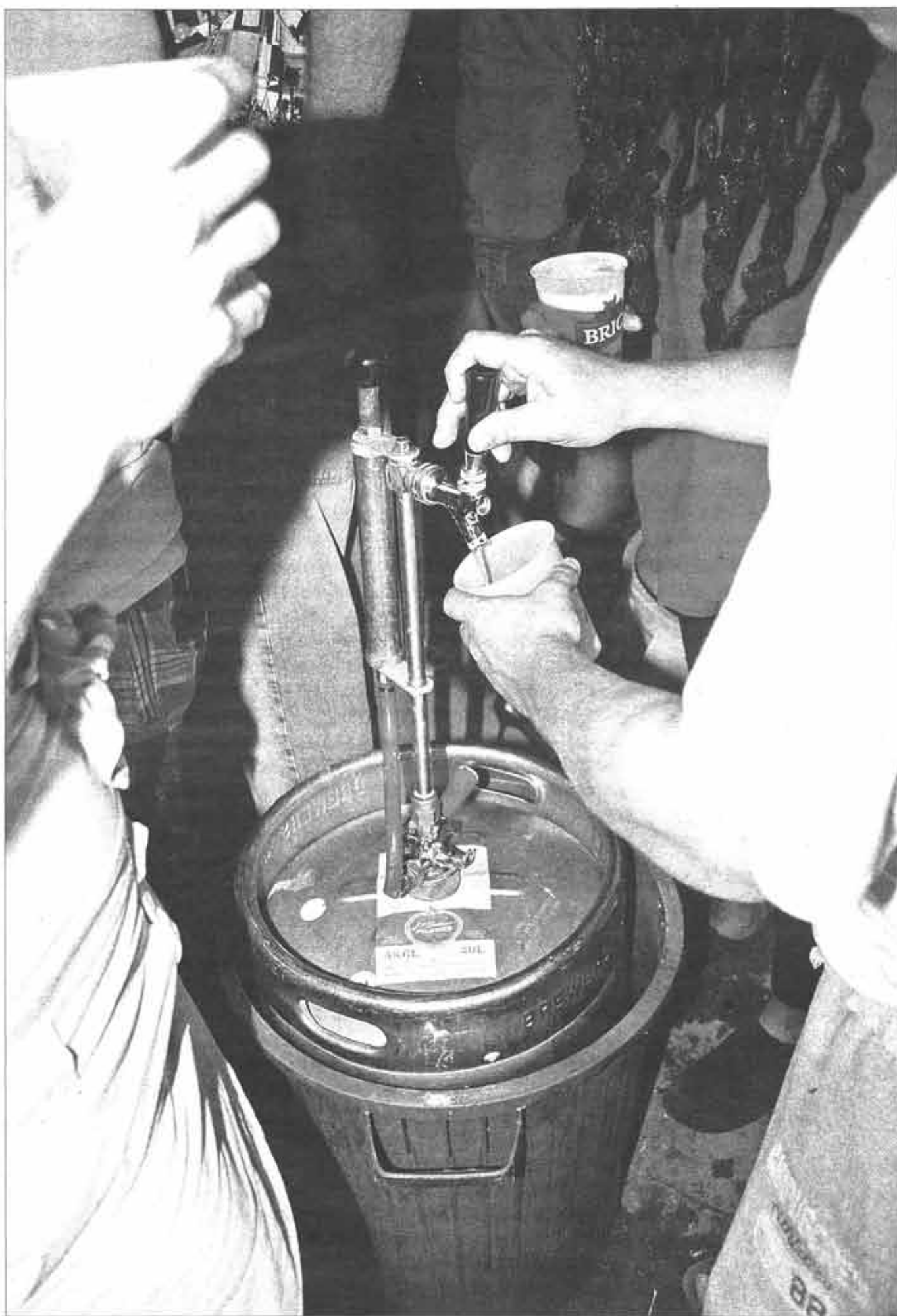
With all of these games that encourage massive consumption of alcohol, one would assume that many people would become extremely inebriated and make some bad decisions. I asked Lucan Woods, a recent graduate who hosted at least ten keggers in his time at Laurier, about the sordid post-kegger clean-up.

"By far the worst locations are the washroom facilities. Some people have no empathy for the owners. There is obviously puke in the bathrooms. On top of that, there were fecal remains in our washroom after two keggers we hosted this summer. One time there was an actual piece of shit on the toilet seat."

While I am in no way pandering to sexual stereotypes, I have ascertained from mere observation in my four years at Laurier that men are more likely to show up to a kegger. This results in what is commonly referred to as a sausagefest.

I asked Jenny Cuomo* how she feels when she attends a kegger only to realize that the ratio of guys to girls is severely lopsided. "I am fine with it since I get along with guys really easy," she says. "It only becomes a problem when there is a five to 45 ratio and it becomes a 'who can tag that broad?' scenario with all the guys on the hunt for the five girls in the room."

If you are a woman and you are



SYDNEY HELLAND

KEGGERIFIC - An '80s themed kegger in Waterloo is enjoyed by many, who dressed up for the festivities.

less than impressed by the scenario that Cuomo just described, I must say that I completely agree. I really did not write that paragraph persuasively at all, but hear me out.

By my admittedly less than scientific calculations, men are four times more likely than women to attend a keg party. With this information in mind, a good host will invite four times as many women as men to balance the equation. I can only assume that the problematic sausagefest issue will be eradicated with the publishing of this article. You're welcome, ladies.

As for all the other negative aspects, I will dismantle them systematically.

The disgusting beer? You stop noticing the taste after your second cup. The mass of people hindering

your path to the keg? Fill up a pitcher, rather than a cup, every time you are at the keg. Split the pitcher-filling duties among you and two friends so it doesn't seem like such a daunting chore.

The chance of the party ending early due to police intervention? It is not a guarantee that the cops will show up. The chances of it happening are roughly the same as your daughter going into the porn industry if you name her Jenna. Besides, even if it does happen, it is not that big of a deal for you as a party-goer. You are more than likely a suburbanized kid. A little tussle with the "po-po" will toughen you up.

With all of the things that could go wrong with a kegger, it is all the more reason to savour those nights

when it all just goes right. I'm talking about those nights when it all seems like a scene from *Can't Hardly Wait* and you just keep looking for Jennifer Love Hewitt and her tremendous...eyes.

As for you people foolish — I mean heroic — enough to host a kegger, let me take this opportunity to say that you are doing an honourable service for the Laurier community. Also, good luck cleaning the excrement on your toilet seat.

**The name has been altered. The woman interviewed does not wish to be identified.*

The Cord does not support the sale of alcohol without a liquor license.

Beautiful abode on a budget

Decorating a boring residence room is a way to express yourself and to show off your tastes in style. Read our tips for the best way to buy furniture and decorations on a budget

HEATHER HAMILTON
CORD STUDENT LIFE

For many students, living on their own gives them a chance to explore an individuality they may not have had in high school, or it gives them the ability to express themselves by decorating their rooms in a way that may not have gone with their parents' decor.

The mere fact that we are students on a budget limits us from going to Leon's and buying that perfect couch to go with the perfect bed. So how can we get furniture and decorations that match our personalities on such a small budget? There has to be a compromise between the expensive furniture and the milk crates. Luckily, it's not that hard to find.

The first place many of us look for cheap decor is probably a place like Zellers or IKEA. Even stores like Home Depot or Rona have decent furniture and prices. Shopping in these places can be both tricky and dangerous to the student on a budget.

KEEP A LOOK OUT IN THE NEWSPAPER CLASSIFIEDS. MOVING SALES AND YARD SALES CAN HAVE HIDDEN TREASURES PERFECT FOR YOUR ROOM!

These stores have some amazing finds, but when we think everything is cheaper we usually buy more, and in the end, spend more. We will buy the cheaper desk and bed frame, and then go for the lamps and throw pillows. Or, in the case of Zellers, that means more to spend on DVDs or video games. Hundreds of dollars later we will have a great room, but no money left for other necessities.

The best places to find furniture and decorations on a budget are second-hand stores. You might not get the newest stuff, but these stores only sell merchandise that is in good condition. It can be difficult to gauge where to go for specific items because there is no online catalogue and no guarantee of what has been given to the store. The better known of these stores are Value Village and Goodwill.

In addition to these bigger stores, there is a store in Kitchener called Worth a Second Look; their couches usually go for around \$30 or \$40, and they have similar pricing on bed frames, desks, tables and everything in between.

Another great place to try is St. Jacobs. Why not take a road trip to the town where you may be able to find some beautiful furniture? This is one place that you may have to

look out for prices, though, as many of their items are hand-crafted.

If you buy from a second-hand store – or you aren't a fan of the decor in your residence – the best way to spruce up the furniture is to give it a personal touch. No, you don't have to sew anything or have much in the way of artistic abilities.

If you buy a couch that is either not your favourite colour or has a grandma pattern that you don't necessarily like, buy a large sheet in whichever pattern you like best and put it over the couch. It acts as both a slipcover and it might make the couch a bit more comfortable. Sheets are key to dressing up furniture. They can act as tablecloths, couch covers, and yes, they even go on your bed.

Online shopping can also help to buy good quality furniture and decorations for your room at lower prices. Craigslist.com, Kijiji.com, and BuySell.com, for example, have just about everything. One of the great things about these sites is that there are postings for just about everywhere, including KW,

so you can get the furniture either from school or from home without having to worry about getting it from point A to point B.

Everything is sold through the owner, and about nine times out of

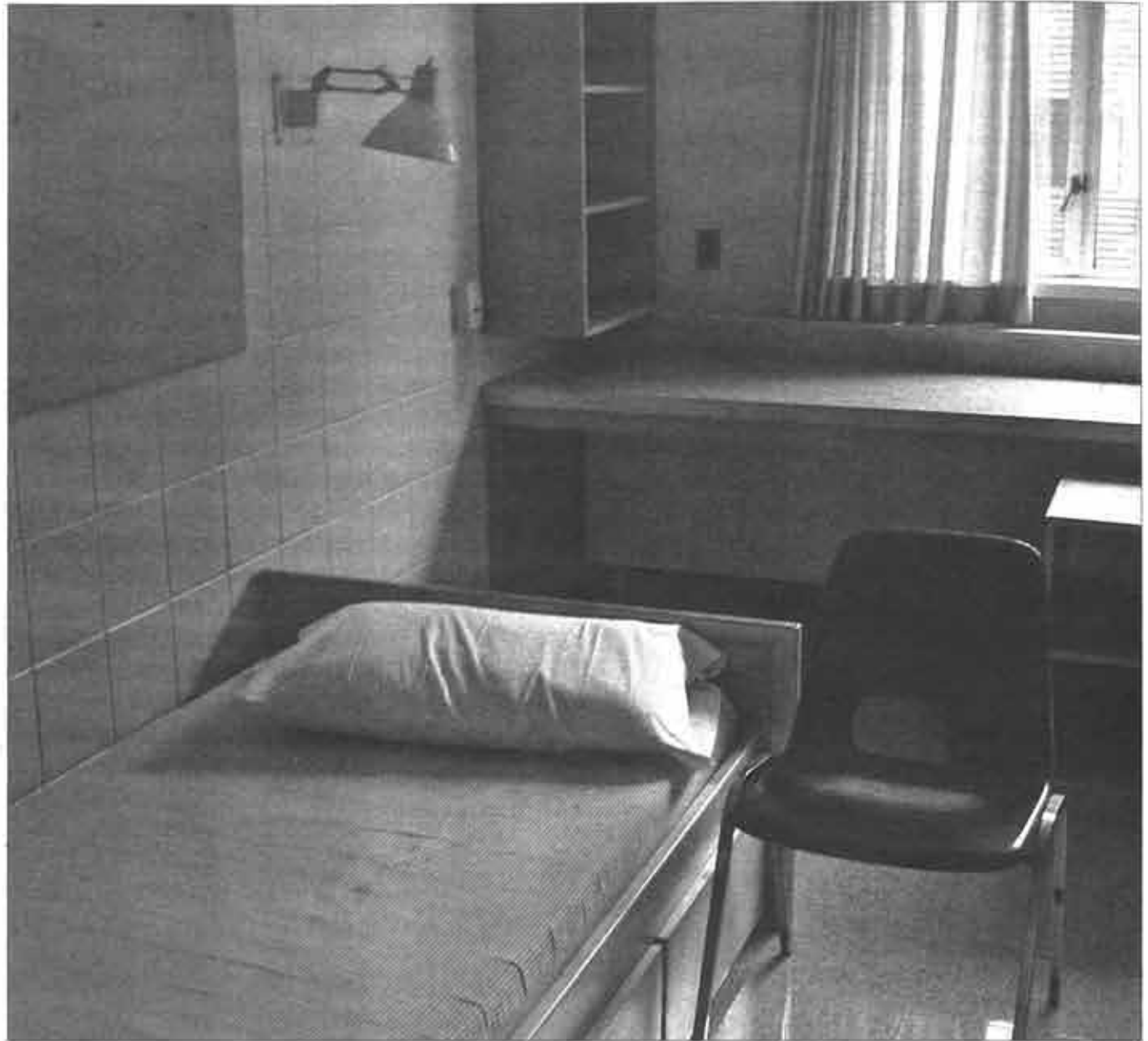
ten there is a picture so that you know what you are getting into. These items are usually listed in sets, but they can also be sold individually. The sets are a great deal. Why buy furniture at over \$100 each when you can get the entire set for the same price?

eBay is another great source for just about everything you might need. Unlike other online sites, eBay requires payment via credit card before delivery and it is a little less direct than calling up the owner. Through eBay, you can bid on an item and this often drives prices up. With some items you can buy them at their face value, but this could be a bit pricier.

Also, keep a look out in the newspaper classifieds. Moving sales and yard sales can have hidden treasures perfect for your room!

Shopping on a budget is not the easiest thing to do, so if you want something new, look in flyers, don't be afraid to coupon-clip and keep your eye out for those red tag sales. Second-hand stores usually have the same items as the chain stores for much cheaper. Either way, you'll find a great piece of furniture for a great price, and that perfect decoration to brighten up a dingy room.

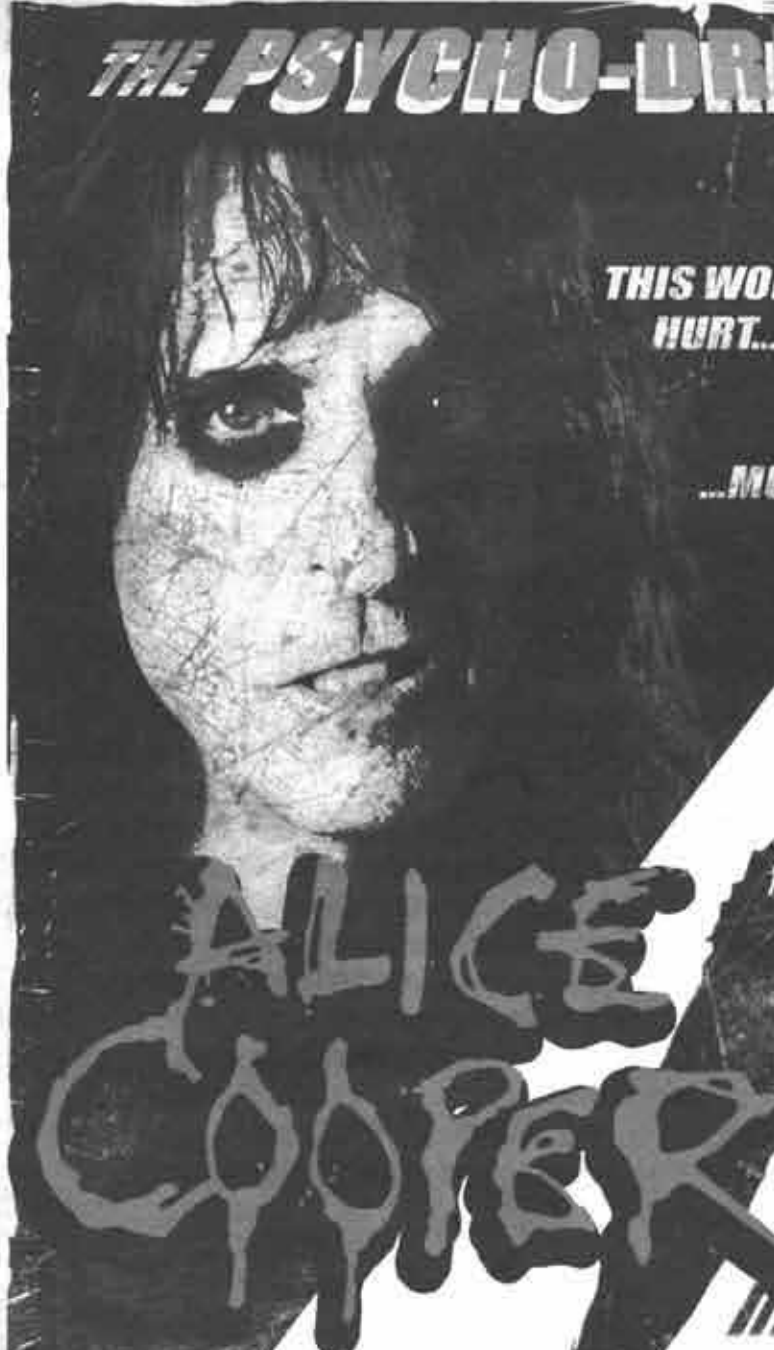
On that note, happy shopping!



FILE PHOTO • LAURA TOMKINS

HOME DECOR - Students can spruce up their apartments that lack flair by looking off the beaten path.

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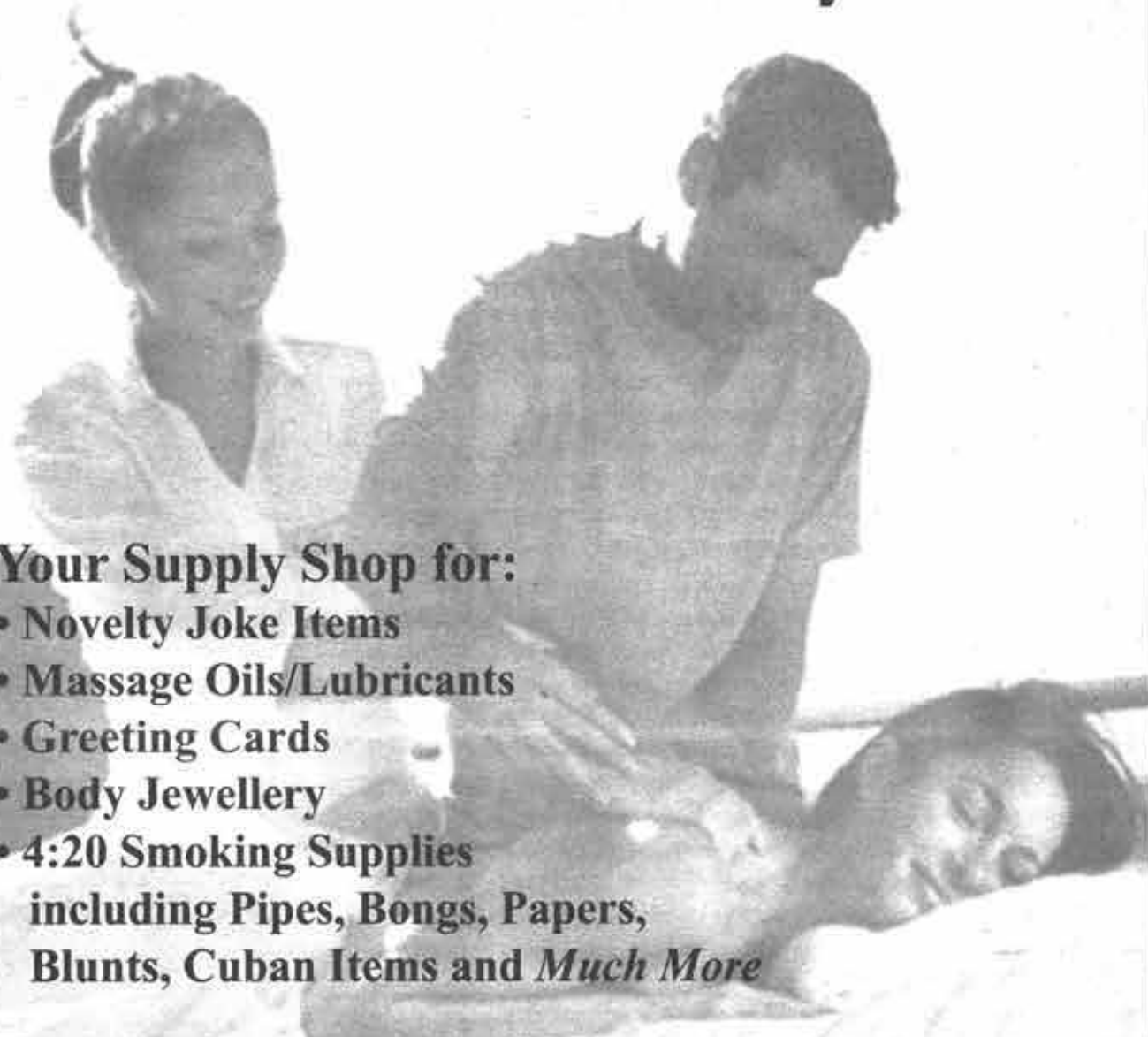


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Meal plan unfair

Laurier's meal plan, coupled with the OneCard, is one of the best university meal plans and student service programs in Ontario.

Or, rather, it was – before Food Services announced changes to its meal plan structure for this year.

The most significant of these changes is the inability for a student in a dorm-style residence to transfer more than \$500 of their remaining balance to their second year of university, where once full-balance transfers were possible. This maximum of \$500, which no longer shifts to a student's convenience account, must also be used up in the first semester of second year or the funds will be lost.

Changes to the meal plan also include a reduction of the convenience account from \$500 to \$150 and a drop in the number of businesses that support the OneCard off campus.

These changes were spurred by losses in the range of hundreds of thousands of dollars annually by Food Services.

While these new rules – which strongly encourage students to spend more money on campus and less in the broader community – will no doubt ease the burden of the

company's debt, they are an abysmal way of upholding the quality of service past Laurier students have received.

In essence, the financial burden is being passed on to the students and their families, who are already financially encumbered by the growing costs of post-secondary education. Students are now at risk of losing money simply by using this service – which is mandatory to all dormitory residents.

Furthermore, this means incoming first-year students will be restricted from enjoying the broader community around Laurier that older students were able to.

The Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) did help the student body by negotiating the \$500 transfer amount up from the inability to make any carry forward, which Food Services initially proposed. However, WLUSU could still have fought harder to retain the high quality of food services that the university once provided.

Ultimately, it's the students that suffer from this move. Instead of receiving an award-winning, cutting-edge service, first-year Laurier students will now receive an average one at a higher price.



JULIE MARION AND SYDNEY HELLAND

WLU's pool efforts good

The announcement that Laurier's 50 metre swimming pool will be open at least until December 31 brings some new hope into a bleak situation.

The 50 metre pool (the length of Olympic pools) is the only one in the region and is used by many local and some national swim clubs.

It is a point of pride for WLU to have such strong relations with community groups and see national athletes trained on our campus.

Such relationships, however, are not worth the mammoth costs of both repairing and maintaining the pool – a facility that is used by only a small percentage of the student body.

For an indebted school such as Laurier, the estimated \$1.5 million in repairs and \$800,000 annually in maintenance are needed far more elsewhere.

It is very encouraging to see WLU make every possible effort to see the pool remain open. The university has offered to continue to pay the costs of upkeep if the community at large will pay the cost of the repair.

For a facility that is used primarily by outside groups, this is a very reasonable offer.

It would have been prudent, on the other hand, for Laurier's administration to have given the community more warning about the pool's closing, so that there would have been more time to collect outside funding.

If community groups don't step forward, the only other source of funding would be the government – who have not yet contributed towards the pool's upkeep another possible avenue of funding could be from the government, something that has been severely lacking in already at Laurier.

Hopefully this extension will provide the time and money needed to save the pool, as everyone would like to see it remain open.

These unsigned editorials were agreed upon by at least two-thirds of The Cord's editorial board and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Cord's volunteers, staff or WLUSU.

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ALEX HAYTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

To many, university is the ultimate social showdown. It's the time to prove your prowess in the art of consorting. Upon arriving at Laurier you'll be greeted by thousands of fellow students who are the same age as you, and all of whom want the same thing: to have a good time.

When entering this bustling battleground, then, you'll feel a lot of pressure to make as many friends as possible during the first weeks of university orientation. Indeed, it's important to socialize because it's the key to having fun.

But stand back for a minute. Socializing is important at university, but you'll need confidence to be social and that confidence comes from getting to know your own personality. And, at the end of the day, you're only guaranteed to spend the rest of your life with one person: yourself.

So make sure you spend as much time with *yourself* as possible.

I highly recommend taking a jaunt around Waterloo on your lonesome. If you feel lonely – well, that's because you're telling yourself you are. Go catch a movie with just a cup of apple cider as your companion at the Princess Cinemas. Walk over to Bulk Barn and buy yourself a feedbag of chocolate-covered peanuts.

Do whatever the hell you want.

These activities might be more fun with friends, but doing them by yourself will give you a bit of perspective on your fast-moving life, and provide breathing space to prepare for the busy social scheduling ahead.

University is an academic place, and a hub of intellectual thought and discussion – who'd have thought? Try to let this rub off on you, and you'll find yourself coming away with more than just a degree and an addiction to alcohol.

GO CATCH A MOVIE WITH JUST A CUP OF APPLE CIDER AS YOUR COMPANION AT THE PRINCESS CINEMAS. WALK OVER TO BULK BARN AND BUY YOURSELF A FEEDBAG OF CHOCOLATE COVERED PEANUTS.

You've arrived at the ideal environment to do a lot of thinking, and with time on your hands to do so: now, more than ever again in your life.

While O-Week is certainly a good time to get to know people, there's no reason to stress about making your closest friends the second you step into the classroom or lounge.

If there's one thing that I felt during my first few months at university, it was that everyone seemed to be hanging around in big groups of companions, except for me. It's only now that I understand how these groups attracted such great numbers. They were cloning each other.

It's all too easy to fall into the trap of becoming a clone of the people around you. Acting with the "herd" mindset makes us feel a sense of belonging, sure. But the moment, four years from now, when you have to fall out of that herd and fend for yourself in the real world – well, you're screwed. And you might not even know who you are.

There's nothing wrong with falling in with the crowd every now and then – but just try to understand *your* place in that crowd.

It's certainly sad to see people living their whole existence in their friends' heads. Spending your day thinking of what your friends think of you; never pausing to look at your-

self from the inside – it's no way to live through university.

So go for long walks by yourself. Find hobbies that you can do entirely in solitude. Do these things with the confidence that you can enjoy your own company, and you'll find that this confidence will carry into your social life – it'll make you stand out.

More importantly, though, is that having a sense of personal understanding will intrinsically make you feel more *alive*.

University isn't about making friends. It's about making yourself, and then finding the friends that fit in with you.

letters@cordweekly.com

How we can create a university

Even though extra-curricular involvement seems enticing, don't forget that academics are the primary reason you're in university



GREG WHITFIELD
RUFFLED FEATHERS

A professor, writing in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, recounts a story about a junior student arriving at his office hours and asking for a brief explanation of the importance of Freud.

Reflecting on the exchange, he writes: "When you have that kind of conversation ... you begin, however modestly, to create a university."

Write that down. Commit it to memory. Tattoo it upside down and backwards on your stomach. Do whatever it takes for this simplest of lessons to sink in, because when it does, and you realize that the university – for all its myriad clubs, committees, boards, bodies, choirs and flocks – is first and foremost an academic institution, you'll be capable of taking the most you can out of these years.

When an expert talks to a student, explaining the intricacies of complex ideas, everything that's necessary to constitute a university is already in place. All the rest: Residence Life, WLUSU, Student Services, etc., are just window dressing.

Sure, they make the time we're here easier by fostering social networks and providing services, and of course they can be a lot of fun for their participants, but we should all be deeply concerned for anyone who treats these elements as more important than the actual

university.

That is, more important than classes, relationships with faculty or even reading that one last article.

There will always be stuff to join. Local food banks aren't going anywhere and always need volunteers, cancer walks will continue to need organizers and participants for the foreseeable future, and beer league softball shows no signs of slowing down.

So why rush to participate here and now, even at the expense of academic life? Especially when for most of us, now is the only time in our lives it will be so easy to knock on a conveniently labelled door and have a genuine expert unravel Foucault, Dostoevsky or Von Neumann for us.

Far too many people encourage us to move in the wrong direction. During orientation week we're saturated with the infectious excitement of icebreakers, encouraged that there's something right for everyone at the get-involved fair, and that university is about breaking out and getting involved in new things.

Throughout all this there's frighteningly little mention that one of those things (the reason we're all here to begin with) is this: learning as much as you can convince faculty members to explain to you.

Perhaps it's because we're newly on our own and rightly concerned for what the future holds in store, but whatever the cause, these encouragements and pressures to join in the "involvement culture" at Laurier are very effective, and, giv-

en that the purpose of the university is primarily academic, deeply problematic.

So I couldn't care less about whether or not we have an army of purple-shirted icebreakers or a thriving student publications department. Don't let the brochures and cheering fool you; that's not what makes Laurier different from that university down the street or a dozen other schools.

This place is unique, because like all universities, it's academically very different from its fellows; because our faculty is a unique collection of experts who represent a knowledge base and a set of viewpoints not found at any other university in the world.

And despite an unfortunately haphazard growth strategy, Laurier is still small enough that you can show up at a professor's office unannounced and ask about the difference principle, general relativity or the Laffer curve, and reasonably expect a detailed explanation.

It's this kind of interaction – not clubs and committees – that makes this place unique and special and terrific.

Building humble little universities in the hallways and the offices of this campus is why you're here. And it's the absolute height of what you can accomplish during this time.

You'll never again have such an opportunity, so ditch the union and go hassle an expert. I promise it will be infinitely more rewarding.

letters@cordweekly.com



SYDNEY HELLAND

HELP COMPUTER – Academics at Laurier are very good to talk to.

Should students receive teaching or therapy?

University students have been receiving counselling for their problems rather than regarding them as normal rites of passage



DON MORGENSON
ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE

Recently, a colleague of mine died and among the statements made in his laudatory obituary were those often made: "He was peerless in his chosen discipline," "He was a genuinely committed teacher," etc.

What was also true but unspoken was that he was never willing to suffer "fools" gladly and was unafraid to tell a student that he found the student's work "unacceptable."

Today, such comments might cause an uproar and the teacher might find himself in front of some student panel or tribunal being tried for "verbal assault"; perhaps being suggested for anger management counselling.

Though not necessarily recommended, I remember the days when I sat in class quaking as professors ripped our arguments to shreds, made us weep tears of humiliation and generally told us to "pull up our socks" or register for some other course.

Today, we play the role of students' personal counsellors rather than arbiters of truth.

Some of my colleagues feel discouraged from committing acts of critical pedagogy, and are pressured not just by the unofficial groups auditing their output or the government departments that "performance-pay" their salaries, or web sites such as "Rate Your Prof," but also at the hands of their own students.

The first president under whom I served (when Laurier was called Waterloo University College, an affiliate of the University of Western Ontario) suggested to our faculty that a professor's salary, merit, and promotion increments should be tied to positive student feedback and/or the number of students who sought to register in his/her particular courses.

The assumption: students know best! While in part true, such a proposal was unanimously rejected. But that was forty-five years ago.

It is little wonder that professors are hesitant to criticize student work and award them the mediocre grades they fully deserve (even Ivy League universities such as Harvard have shown great concern about grade inflation).

The goal of advanced studies has, I regret to say, switched from carefully measured competence to student self-esteem in a few troublesome years.

As once Head of Counseling Services

here at Laurier, I am obviously in favor of psychological support during students' difficult times. My worry, however, is that with the plethora of support systems, wall-to-wall counselling and psychological guidance, students may be led to believe anything academically challenging may be psychologically damaging rather than a spur to higher achievement levels.

Some critics point to the fact that psychotherapy is the biggest growth industry here in Canada. These same critics also see the university as a crisis center – more focused on helping students cope effectively with the "normal developmental tasks" we all face.

Denis Hayes, a joint author of the book "McDonaldisation of Higher Education" refers to this development as the "therapeutic ethos" and argues it now permeates the university system.

If it needs emphasis – I have never opposed supportive counselling/therapy. I am, however, interested in knowing how such a change came about and what effects such a therapeutic ethos has on our academic standards.

Where will this therapeutic intervention for "normal" challenges of teenage life lead?

In answer to the first question, there has

been a huge increase in sheer numbers of students attending university, often accompanied by decreases in staff, funds and resources. Introduced, too, was the concept of the student as "consumer" (though of course, knowledge, like wisdom, cannot be consumed but only acquired).

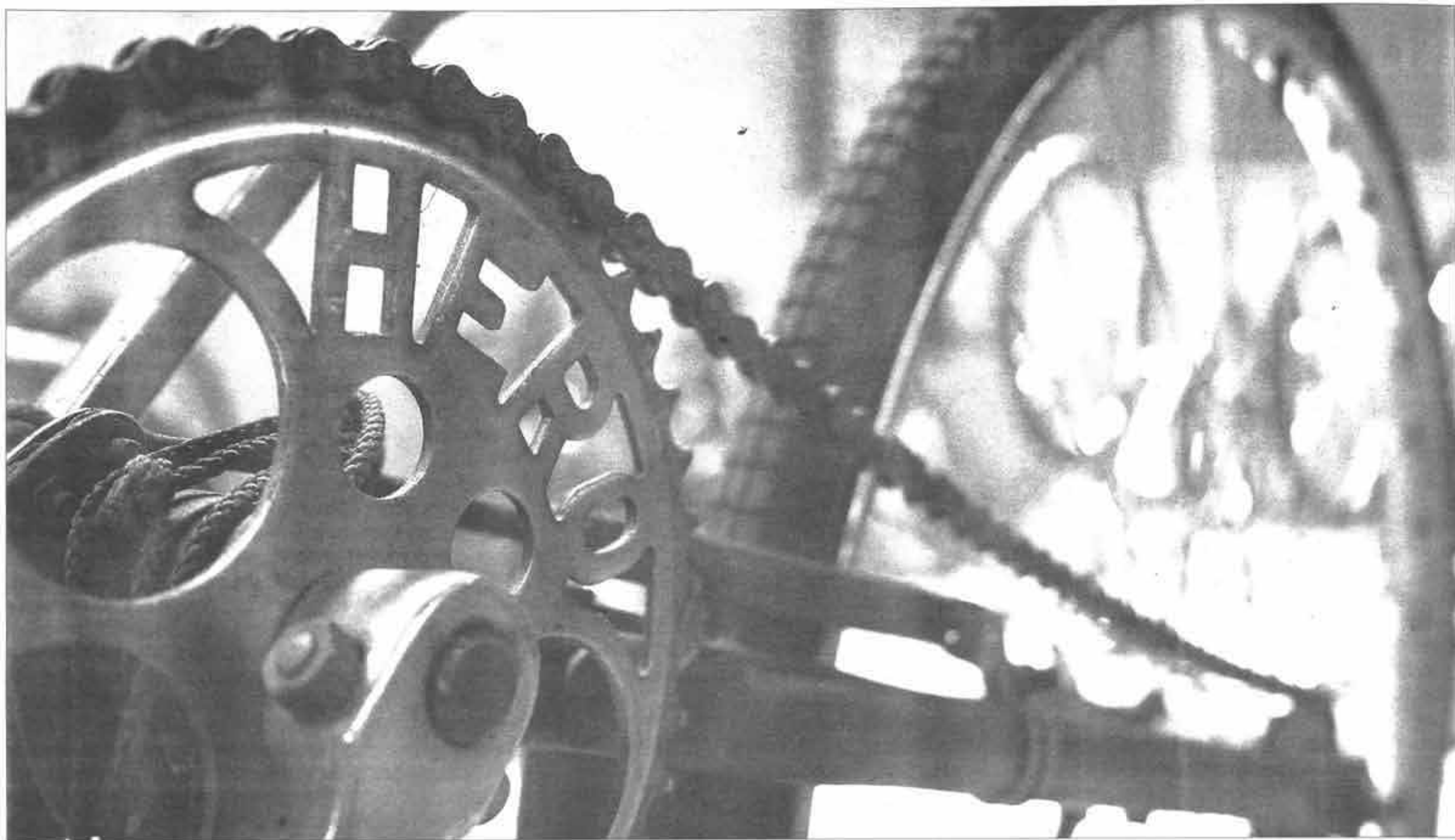
Secondly, the university absorbed fashionable management science constructs furthering the "bureaucratization" of university life.

Thirdly, there has been a litigiousness wherein the powerful student-consumer, feeling entitled to an A+ rather than the A that he or she received may threaten to sue.

Obviously, such generalizations apply neither to all students nor to all disciplines. But, there has been a shift.

Some institutions, facing increasing student numbers coupled with fewer dollars, fewer teachers and teaching assistants, force students and their teachers to take the path of least resistance and may be tempted to offer an academic life bereft of rigor.

All of this is a long way from the university conceived by John Henry Newman or Jacques Barzun, and may make the question of "What is university for?" not only an important but even a litigious question.



SYDNEY HELLAND

Bicycle thief deserves jail time

Sydney Helland had her bike stolen near bike thief Igor Kenk's repair shop in Toronto and still feels robbed two years later



SYDNEY HELLAND
PRINT PRODUCTION
MANAGER

Imagine for a moment that you're working well past sundown one evening in an unsavory part of downtown Toronto. After closing up shop for the night, you turn around only to find your bike lock cut in half, sitting on the sidewalk beside the post where your bike was locked up only moments ago.

This happened to me a little over two years ago, and it still antagonizes me to this day. I will never forget the experience of having to walk home, concerned about what danger may lie in every alleyway ahead, trying to calculate which end of a widowed bike seat would do more harm should I need to use it as a weapon, all while occasionally being taunted by a homeless person or crack-head spluttering, "Why the long face, sweetheart?"

What's worse than mourning a stolen bike is knowing who took it, but being completely incapable of

proving it.

I know that it was my own fault for not registering my bike with the Toronto Police; maybe then it would have been easier to recover it. Who knows? Regardless, I knew deep down who the thief was, and I'm sure anyone would have had the same inkling if their home were mere steps away from the now infamous Bicycle Clinic of Queen Street West.

The owner of the seedy bike repair shop, 49-year-old Igor Kenk, was always on my radar after the night my bike was stolen. I would walk by his shop every day, meticulously analyzing every bike that was dropped off.

I never found it.

Thankfully, a bit of solace came my way when I found out that Kenk was arrested on July 16 of this year and was facing 58 drug and bike-theft-related charges.

The Toronto Police recovered some 2,700 bikes that Kenk or his gofers had stashed around the downtown city core, and also found more than six kilograms of marijuana and 85 grams of cocaine in the process.

The bikes were on display for a couple days, and the police invited victims of bike theft to sift through the thousands of bikes in the hopes of being reunited with theirs.

I went down to the warehouses where the bikes were displayed, and like many others, began the daunting task of wading through the seemingly endless rows of upside-down bikes.

MY HEART WOULD SKIP A BEAT EVERY TIME I SAW A BIKE WITH SIMILAR FEATURES TO THE ONE I HAD LOST.

In the two hours that I was there, I witnessed five people recognize their bikes and, flushed with excitement, presented the supervising officers with proof that the bike was theirs, and then happily rode off.

My heart would skip a beat every time I saw a bike with similar features to the one I had lost. The deep shade of purple, the swishy yellow graphics and font, the gear grip-shifts, the curved handlebars; so many bikes would come close, but not close enough.

Despite not finding my bike, it

was great to see so many people getting their bikes back, when I'm sure they thought they were gone forever.

The Toronto Police handled the situation very well considering the circumstances. Although the police's actions were met with criticism such as complaints that the citizens weren't given enough time to search for their bikes, they did the best they could.

In early August *The Toronto Star* reported that Justice Bruce Young granted Kenk a \$275,000 bail.

Kenk was also placed under house arrest, had his travel documents seized and was told to stay away from his Queen St. bike shop and not possess any bike.

The judge's decision is fair for the time being, but to any victim of bike theft, I'm sure the ruling is considered far too lenient, especially considering how many people were negatively affected by Mr. Fix-it's actions.

For example, while I was looking for my bike in the warehouse, I saw a little kid no more than five years

old being interviewed by news media. He was describing his bike to the journalist, saying that it was green, white and blue, and that he really missed it.

I watched this little guy thinking, "What kind of monster would take a kid's bike?" Not to say that taking an adult's bike isn't equally wrong. I just feel that robbing a child is unforgivable, even when being faced with bail charges surpassing a quarter of a million dollars.

Bikes aren't just objects; for some a bike is a treasured means of conveyance that provides quick transit to work, school, shops, etc.

With this in mind, and Kenk's court date looming, I implore Justice Young to take into account not only the two major felonies committed, but also the sheer number of people (including children) robbed of their bikes.

Thus, I hope that the Toronto Police continue to take bike thefts more seriously as a result of this trial, and with any luck, victims of bike theft and thieves alike will see justice served.

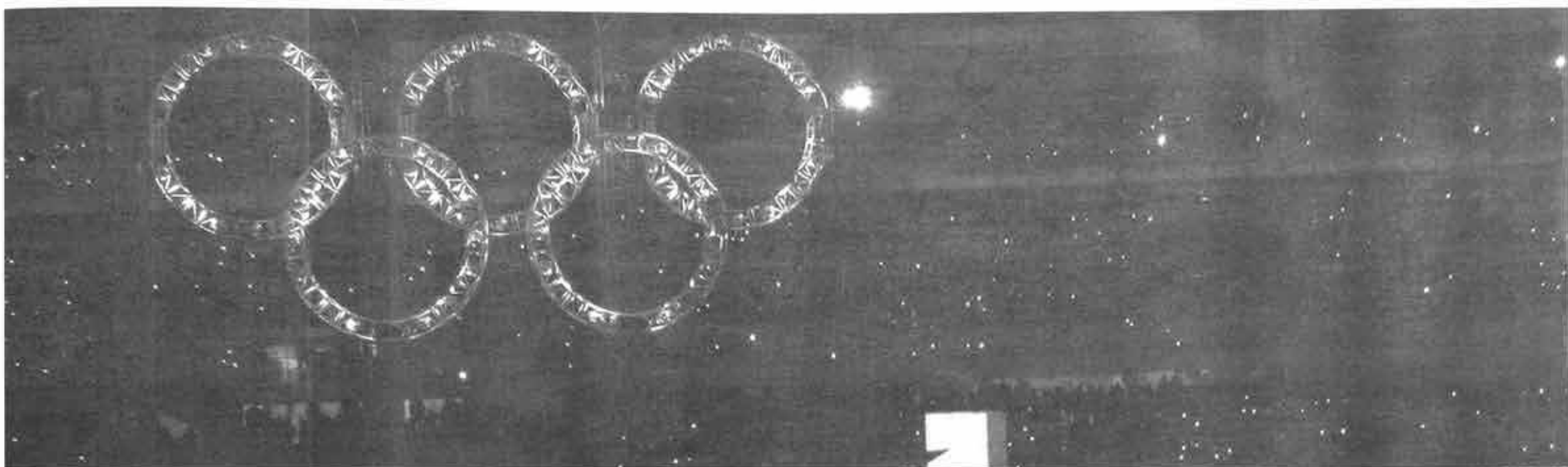
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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Olympic Dream for human rights

Using the Beijing Olympics to scrutinize China's human rights record should spur Canadians to take interest in our country's, too



JOSH SMYTH
THE EXAMINED LIFE

Well, it's all over; 16 days that exemplified the curious mishmash of athleticism, spectacle, commercialization, and nationalism that makes up the Olympic Games. Buried in the yellow haze of the Beijing air were some absolutely stunning performances by athletes from around the world.

The events, of course, did not re-

ally make these games. The phrase "China's coming-out party" may have been repeated *ad nauseum*, but that doesn't make it any less apt. Stage-managed to the tiniest detail, these games were meant to herald the re-emergence of China as a great power.

Leveraging the games for political reasons is hardly new. As usual, will someone please write the Conservatives a memo? MP Jason Kenney got himself quoted calling them "a non-political event."

Nor is the use of the games by an authoritarian regime particularly novel. The most famously politi-

cized games have either been held by authoritarian regimes (Berlin in '36, Mexico City in '68, Seoul in '88), or hinged on their actions (Los Angeles in '84).

In some ways, though, Beijing was a new ball game. The Chinese regime was certainly aware that the global grasp of the media can make repression a tricky business.

For our part, the West was certainly aware that the Olympics has the potential to catalyze human-rights improvements; it arguably played a role in loosening the grips of both the Mexican and Korean regimes. This potential was a visible subtext in the awarding of the games to China.

The question, then, is where exactly did all our hectoring on human rights get us? Not very far. China remains one of the world's most vicious and repressive regimes, one that may well have gotten *more* repressive in the Olympic lead-up, not less.

It did earn us the anger of a large part of the Chinese public, who saw it as a sour attempt to rain on their parade. In a country where dissidence plays a distant third fiddle to nationalism and consumerism in the popular mindset, this is unsurprising.

For their part, many in China accused us of hypocrisy, pointing to the numerous ways the West engages in violations of human rights. This is a bit of a red her-

ring. No Western country represses people at anywhere near the scale or severity that China does. It's too easy, though, just to dismiss the accusations.

WE CANADIANS PRESENT OURSELVES TO THE WORLD AS CHAMPIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HOW WILL THAT PLAY WHEN WE INVITE PEOPLE TO GAMES HELD ON STOLEN LAND?

Lest we forget, the next Olympic games are being held in Canada, land of human rights. More specifically, they are being held in Whistler and Vancouver. Many of the venues are being built on land that the local First Nations never formally ceded to Canada.

Other venues are within spitting distance of the Downtown Eastside, one of the worst pockets of poverty and suffering (outside of Native communities) in North America.

This gives us a bit of a situation. Although Canada's repression of its indigenous people doesn't reach Chinese levels, it certainly once did, and we are far more directly involved in its perpetuation.

It is our police that oppress them, our laws that disenfranchise them. We all pay taxes to, and vote for, the governments that perpetuate it and dodge their obligation to help the people suffering in isolated com-

munities around the country.

Any of us that felt compelled to use the Olympics to protest China's record should feel twice as compelled to protest ours.

I'm not for a moment suggesting that we should shut up about other countries until we get our own house in order. If only the sinless could cast stones, there would be far too few windows getting broken.

What I am suggesting is that we take the lessons of Beijing to heart and politicize the hell out of the 2010 games, but do it in such a way that lets the protest come from the inside: from Canadians. Especially from Canadians that live without proper health care, education, or sanitation.

There's an opportunity here. We Canadians present ourselves to the world as champions of human rights. How will that play when we invite people to games held on stolen land?

Perhaps the prospect of having the world knocking on the door will be enough to embarrass the government into doing what it should have been doing all along - treating all Canadians like people.

letters@cordweekly.com

Letters to the Editor

Social life is not so simple, Mr. Shore

I'm writing in response to Dave Shore's article, "Your window of opportunity," in the June 26 issue. Mr. Shore writes, "... the first two weeks you spend at school will have an unparalleled affect on the quality of your entire university career." He also foolishly claims that after two weeks, "your social destiny will have already been written." This, of course, is nonsense. Certainly, many people will form the beginning of many an important friendship in the first couple weeks of school; you're not buckling down on your studies yet and social opportunities abound. But no meaningful circle of friends is established in two weeks and for every lifelong friendship that begins during this period, many more will have devolved into mere acquaintance as early as second semester.

Here's the thing. The underlying line of thinking in Shore's article is sound. The first two weeks are important, just as the first four months are important. If his argument ran that first semester was the most important semester of your university career (socially speaking), I'd be inclined to agree. And that can be very instructive.

For example, if you come to university with a high school sweetheart in tow or even back home, take heed not to cling too closely to that

human comfort blanket. Should, heaven forbid, that relationship ever come to an end, it'll be easier to deal if you've taken the time to speak with your floormates on more than one occasion.

Ultimately, there's no special secret to a satisfying social life while you don't WLU's purple and gold. It's a very friendly school that, despite its small size, has many social circles, albeit some much smaller than others. If you make an effort to put yourself out there and meet people, you'll invariably find your niche. And when (not if) it takes more than two weeks, don't panic and cite the schlock Shore's peddling.

That said, unlike this article, most of the things Mr. Shore pens will be well worth your time. You should totally check out his monthly Cord-o-scopes, for example. That shit's prophetic.

Mike Brown

Former Cord Editor-in-Chief, 07/08

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The Cord reserves the right to edit any letter for brevity and clarity. The Cord reserves the right to reject any letter, in whole or in part. The Cord reserves the right to not publish material that is deemed to be libelous or in contravention with the Cord's Code of Ethics or journalistic standards.

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Campus Pictorial



OVER-ENROLLMENT - Laurier also enrolled 20 Canadian geese, who will be staying in Little House.

ALEX HAYTER

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Last issue's solution:

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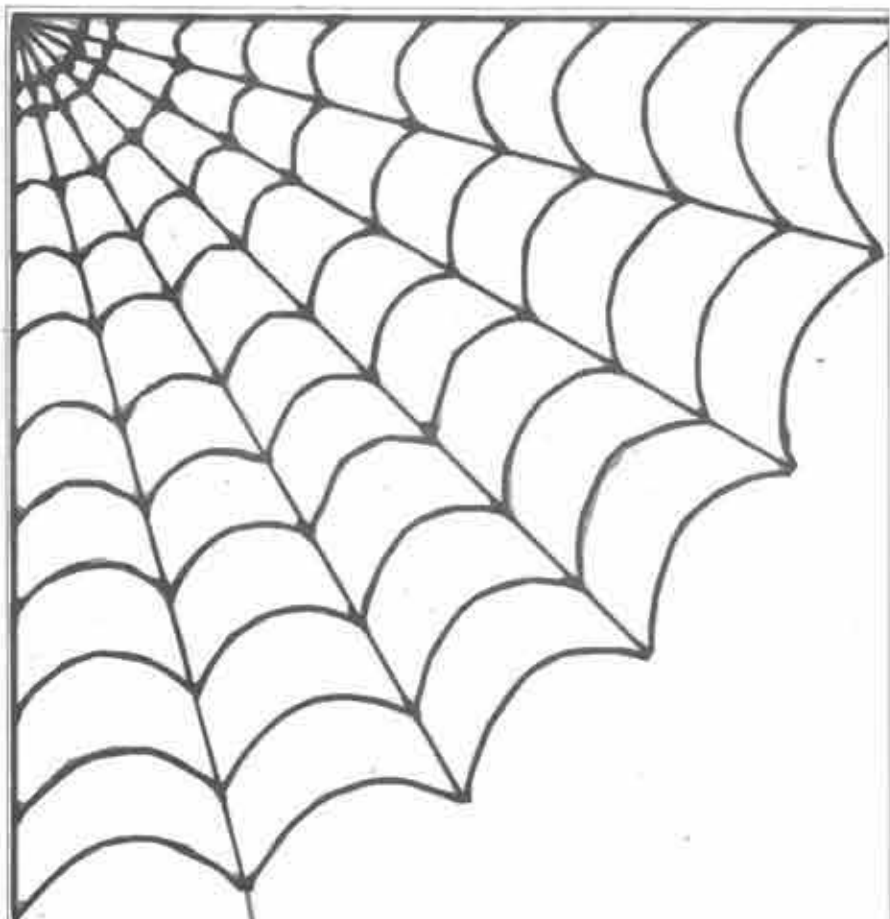
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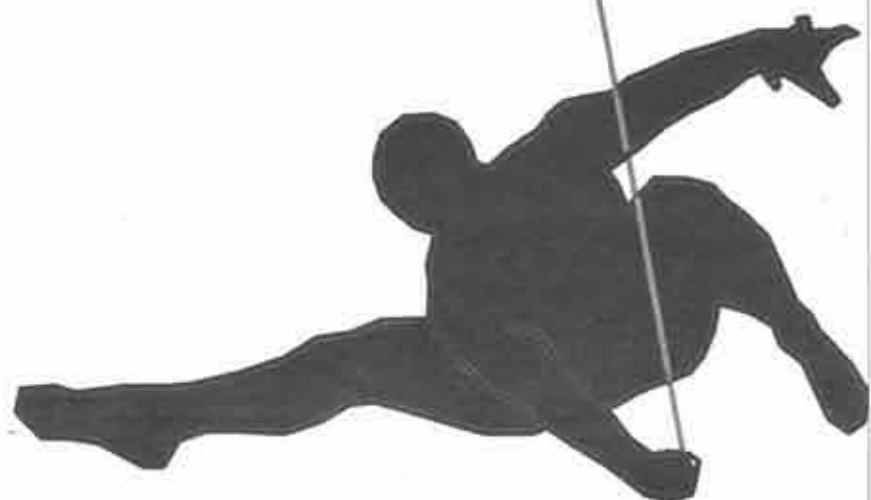


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120-22-08

Gaming's independence day

The Cord's **Trevor Loughborough** speaks to *Everyday Shooter* creator Jonathan Mak about indie videogame development

TREVOR LOUGHBOROUGH
CORD A&E

Jonathan Mak is currently a Toronto-based independent games developer. In 2007 he released *Everyday Shooter*, a downloadable game for the PS3's Playstation Network, after being noticed by Sony at an indie game festival. A simple top-down shooter, *ES* is an album of games, with each unique level corresponding to a song, and the background music and sound effects of the game completely made up of guitar music recorded by Mak.

The Cord caught up with Mak to discuss the success of *Everyday Shooter*, the status of games as an artistic medium, and what it's like to be an independent game designer in Canada.

So what are you up to now? What's happened since *Everyday Shooter* came out?

I hooked up with this local musician called I Am Robot and Proud, and we got a government grant to work on our new game, and that's what I've been working on now.

How did the reception to *ES* affect you, as an independent game designer?

Coming into it, I was just hoping to make enough money to survive—you know, pay rent for a year. So obviously when the Sony deal came down, I was unsure at first because I lost my IP rights to it, but it gave me so much exposure and it also gave me more than enough money to work on the next game.

Obviously it's very exciting, actually being able to do this now, what I've been trying to do for 10 years. I still remember, when I was a kid thinking "Oh, wouldn't it be great to make video games for a living?" And now I am.

Do you feel, with the second game, like you have to make the game for a mass market?

No, my main concern has just been to make it so that it doesn't suck. My belief is that as long as the game is really good, the audi-

ence will come. That's a piece of advice I got and it helped me get *ES* out. I mean, I thought, "who's going to buy this?"

Abstract shapes, a shooter... there are a billion shooters out there..." But my buddy said "Make what you think is good, and people will play it." That's been the hard part, trying to make it so that I like it.

"SOMEONE CAN TAKE A DUMP ON THE STREET AND SOMEONE CAN FIND MEANING IN THAT. EVEN WHEN I PLAY *TETRIS* NOW, I CAN SEE IT AS A METAPHOR ABOUT LIFE..."

- Jonathan Mak, indie game designer

What's it like to make a game all by yourself, and how is it different from what you're doing now?

Well to contrast with my current collaboration, but—and this doesn't always mean a better result—but it's easier to do it by myself. If you can do the graphics, programming and music yourself, you can do it really quickly because you don't have to explain it to anyone else. But when you're working with others you have to spend more time sitting down, explain ideas and make sure everyone's on the same page.

Games like yours and the recently released *Braid* have gotten a lot of positive attention. Has something changed to allow for a wider audience for indie games?

I think a big thing is that just a lot more people are playing games now. I wonder if the percentage of people into indie games has stayed constant, but as the population of gamers increased, the population of indie gamers increased.

What do you think about the games as art debate?

I wrote an essay about games as art in high school ten years ago—for me it was never a debate. I

think the artistic merit of anything is based on the person perceiving it. Someone told me about an art show a while ago where there was just pieces of shit on the floor, and that's art.

Someone can take a dump on the street and someone can find meaning in that. Even when I play *Tetris* now, I can see it as a metaphor, about life giving you all these pieces and how you have to do your best to make them fit together.

Do you think indie games have a role in fleshing out the artistic role of games?

I think it's up to the audience. I think one thing indie games do is insert more variety, bring

more people in, and then maybe get them to read things into the games. But that's not necessarily a distinction of indie games as opposed to mainstream games—a lot of indie games are very niche.

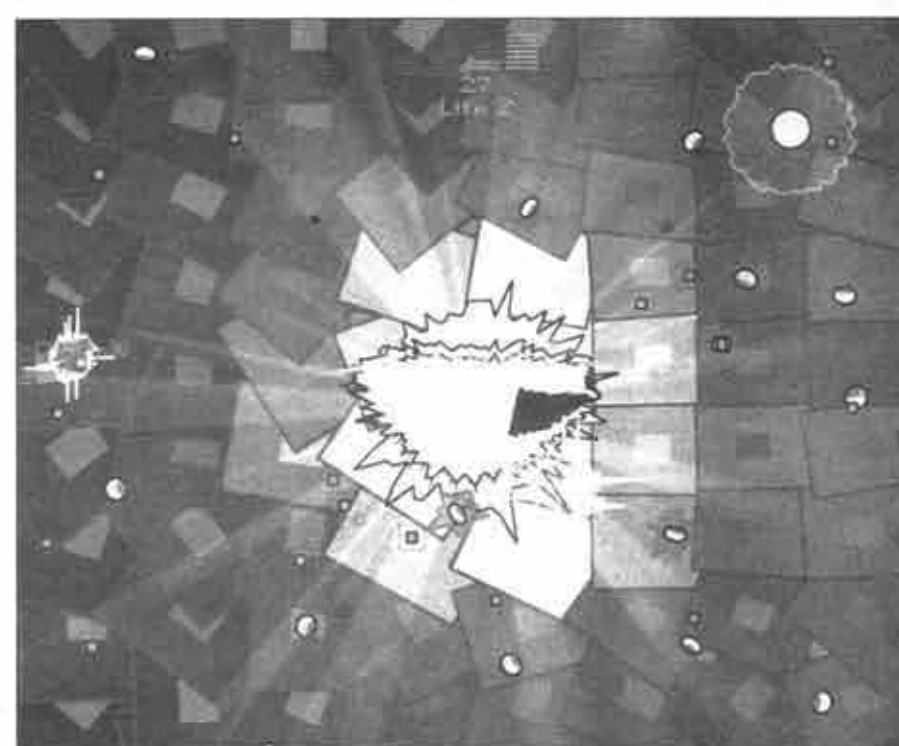
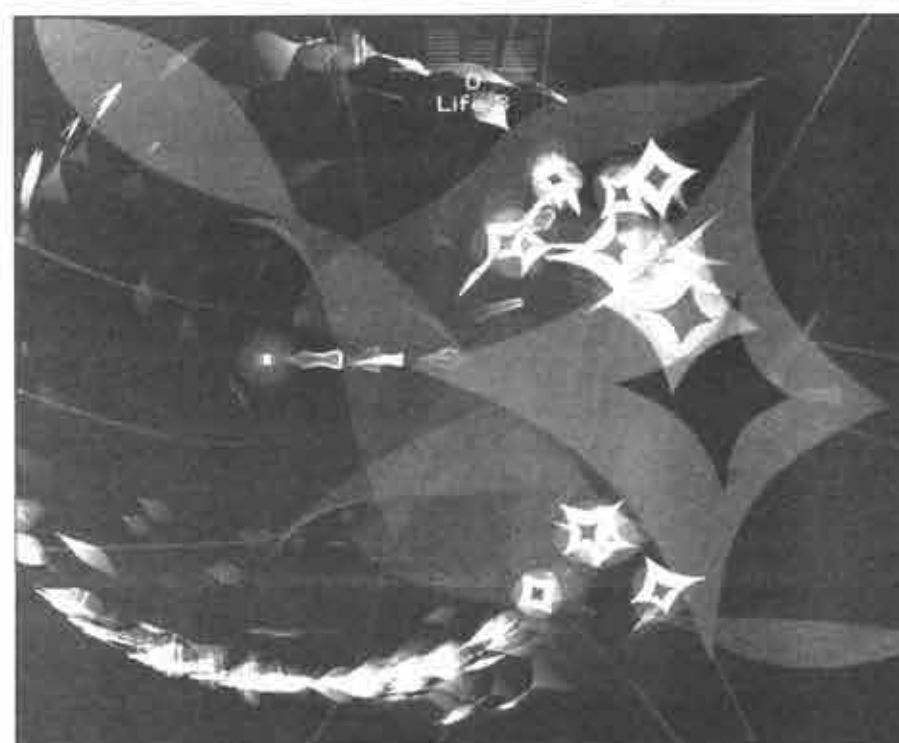
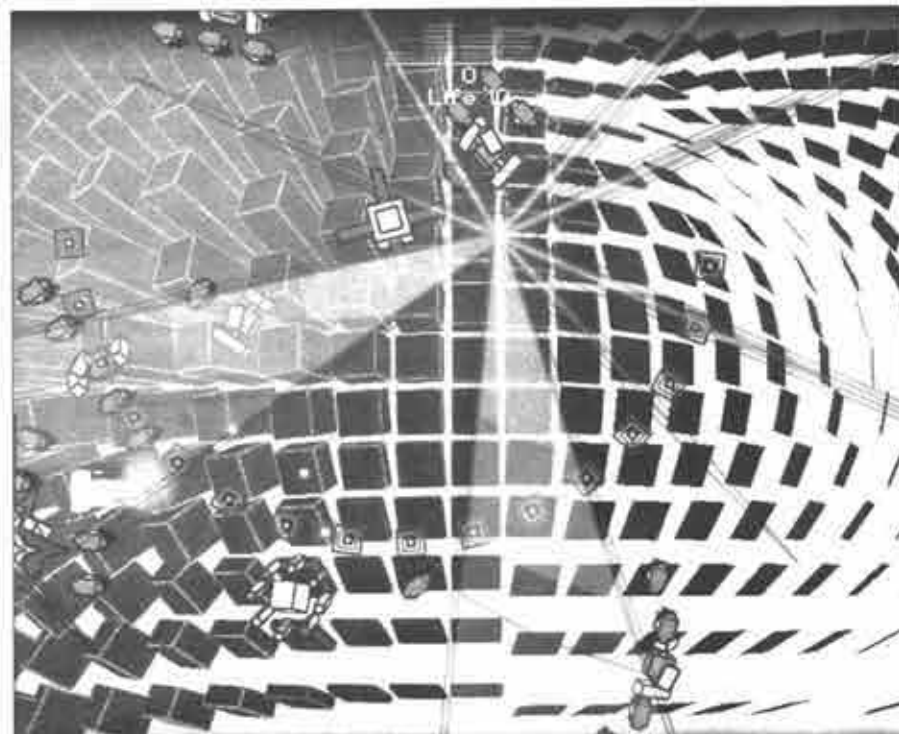
There's a huge indie shooter scene and they're breaking new ground in the shooter genre, but to someone who's not really into shooters they probably won't appeal to a new audience as much as, say That Game Company's titles like *fIOW* and *Flower*.

You mentioned at the beginning about the grant you received. Have you found Canada to be a good place to be for a game designer?

I remember talking to some people and they were surprised with how much Ontario offered in grants. I think we're very fortunate here, there are these programs set up where two dudes can be given a whole bunch of money by the government to make a game.

So can we get any hints on what's coming up next?

Not really... hopefully it won't suck.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

EVERYDAY COMPUTER - Mak's game is popular for the Playstation 3.

THE BIG QUESTION

"What was the worst blockbuster of the summer for you?"

Compiled by Daniel Joseph
Photographs by Sydney Helland



"*Indiana Jones*. Incredibly unrealistic and not in form with the other movies."

- Fabio Enriquez
Fifth-year Biology



"*X-Files*. It was so pointless."

- Michelle Moffitt
First-year Film Studies



"*The Mummy*. It was really cheesy—especially when the Yeti punts a guy."

- Justin Saczawa
Second-year Psychology



"*The Love Guru*. Mike Myers let everybody down in that movie."

- Rob Davidson
Fourth-year Contemporary Studies



"I didn't see *The Mummy*—but Brendan Fraser needs to get a new character or just stop acting!"

- Adam Welton
Third-year Business

Folking around with Conor Oberst

Bright Eyes' frontman returns to solo recordings for the first time since 1996... but why?

ALEX CYBULSKI
CORD A&E

Conor Oberst's decision to release a self-titled album can be viewed as a question mark given the role of his band Bright Eyes, who are known for the personal quality of their recordings.

THE QUESTION IS, WHY DOES SINGER / SONGWRITER CONOR OBERST FEEL THE NEED TO RECORD UNDER HIS OWN NAME AT THIS POINT IN HIS CAREER?

The self-titled *Conor Oberst EP* maintains the kind of quality that can be expected from the seasoned performer. The songs themselves resemble a striking similarity to Bright Eyes' 2007 recording *Cassadaga* which featured songs ranging from country to folk.

The tone of *Cassadaga* was in opposition to Bright Eyes' history of raw acoustic or electronic recordings. The songs on the latest effort by Conor Oberst bear a passing resemblance to his last recording and range from delicate folk pieces to passages of mid-western rock.

This is an album that provides a distinct sense of American geography. Lyrically the songs often reference American cultural hubs ranging from the Midwest to the South. Songs like "Cape Canaveral" followed by "Sausalito" have a distinct interest in the American cultural landscape.

As a solo album, many of the songs blur the line between personal experience and historical reference. The preoccupation with destinations extends beyond the names of cities and their history.

One of the album's best recordings, "Get Well Cards", examines a small, nameless community on the Gulf of Mexico. The song has a feeling of place and ecology which comes across distinctly and powerfully. It is ripe with the kind of empathy and perspective that makes the solo recording so satisfying. The use of geography is one of the album's most successful elements, providing a sense of place and geometry and gives the lyrical content a unique quality.

While the album hints at some personal experiences for Oberst, it rarely feels overly indulgent or heavy-handed. The content of the songs are deftly handled and if there are personal stories within, they are told in an appealing and universal voice. This eschews the typical problem of solo albums that

can come across as intensely personal and self-gratifying.

From a purely instrumental perspective, the songs demonstrate a lot of range but maintain only a minimal sense of cohesion. The opening tracks of the album are delicately arranged in contrast to later songs like "NYC Gone, Gone" and "Souled Out!!" which are exercises in minimal but effective mid-western rock. It is perhaps their simplicity that makes their change of pace quite satisfying.

It also speaks to Oberst's success in producing a solo album which itself encapsulates a personality, as opposed to a particular emotional tone for the recording.

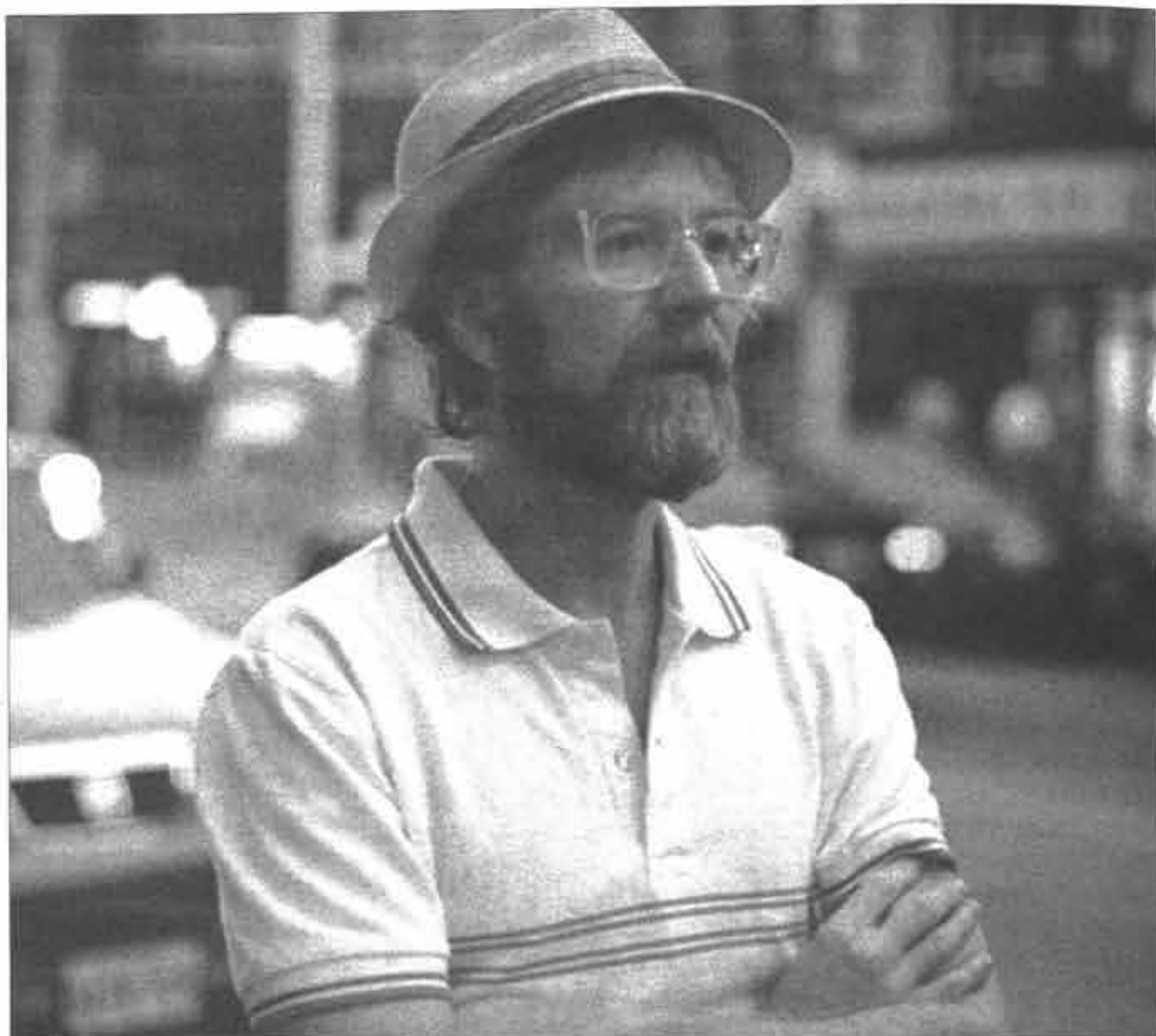
Solo albums generally owe their creation to material that an artist doesn't feel fits within the purview of their current recordings. The question is, why does singer / songwriter Conor Oberst feel the need to record under his own name at this point in his career? The album itself provides few answers, especially with its similarities to 2007's *Cassadaga*.

Perhaps this is a point that needs to be marked in any artist's career. Ten years into the music industry and Oberst has made a reputation for enduring a rapidly changing industry while remaining an independent artist.

Looking at the album from start to finish, it does have a distinct personality. The songs have few similarities tonally: they are akin to the range of thoughts one might experience in a day, and they fit together succinctly like a stream of consciousness.



Conor Oberst
Conor Oberst
Merge Records
Release Date: 05/08/2008
Rating: B+



HATS AND GLASSES - Brendan Canning can typically be seen wearing such items, as well as a full beard.

Mr. Canning's new social scene

Anne Donahue reviews Brendan Canning's *Broken Social Scene Presents: Brendan Canning* and finds it to be a solid summer Canadian release

ANNE DONAHUE
CORD A&E

In a time where the once exclusive indie music genre has become increasingly mass-produced, mainstreamed and trendy, one quickly becomes critical of all new releases and the buzz surrounding "the next big thing".

This cynicism is especially prevalent when musicians announce the debut of their solo side project; artists who are eager to release their "art" to the world in an attempt to acquire an unnecessary ego stroke and paycheck.

Thankfully, Brendan Canning proves that although he is not Thom Yorke, he is a talented, original musician, capable of producing a solo record with enough substance to ensure its survival. *Something For All Of Us* showcases Canning's creativity and proves his talent is not only evident while collaborating with Kevin Drew, fellow co-founder of the indie heavyweight band, Broken Social Scene.

Canning's laid-back persona is prevalent in this solo side project, capturing the quiet nature of Broken Social Scene's first album, 2000's *Feel Good Lost*, in many of its tracks. Although not differing completely from the typical Broken Social Scene sound, Canning

manages to make himself heard - specifically with "Hit the Wall", the catchy first single released off the album which successfully captures the free spirit of vintage rock. "Love Is New", released on the Arts and Crafts Sampler earlier this summer, is another bankable track - rhythmic and light - featuring the vocal talents of Lisa Lob-singer and Amy Millan of Stars.

Appearances by members of the Broken Social Scene family (Jason Collett, Kevin Drew) are frequent, but welcome, with additional instrumental cameos (Evan Cranley and James Shaw on horns) providing the album with a warm, familiar quality.

Throughout its course, *Something For All Of Us* lives up to its name and manages to keep evolving - maintaining fresh songs and an eclectic mix of sounds; successfully transitioning from jam-session inspiration ("Something For All Of Us") to light and airy ("Antique Bull") to slightly melancholy ("Been At It So Long").

Although not a very danceable album, its depth and originality keep listeners interested, thus preventing it from falling into the dreaded "strictly background music" category.

Brendan Canning has often been seen as the softer, subdued and more silent partner of Broken

Social Scene, but *Something For All Of Us* proves how vital he is to the indie music establishment. Although he has earned the right to be confident, his lack of bravado and showiness make the album even more listenable.

It's certainly easier to support an artist not completely wrapped up in their own talent or reputation, especially when the album is worthy of such acclaim. Now if only Tom DeLong, Dallas Green or Jared Leto would take a page from the book of Brendan Canning.



Brendan Canning
Something for All of Us
Arts and Crafts
Release Date: 18/07/2008
Rating: B+

Why do Conservatives hate the art they don't agree with?

The Conservatives pander to the far-right by cutting Canada's \$4.7 million PromArt initiatives



DANIEL JOSEPH
A&E Editor

I love Canada because it has shown me that the government can actually make a direct difference in the lives of Canadians that need help – whether through health care or more culturally, through art. PromArt was a great example of such a sentiment – its average \$4.7 million dollar budget subsidized the international promotional tours of Canadian artists and speakers. These Canadians travelled the globe bringing attention to issues they thought important, or as in the case of Toronto's own jam band Holy Fuck, great music.

I've lived under two amazingly similar (born and raised in the 'States), but still distinct forms of government now, and as such when I read the news the other day that the Conservative government had slashed funding to the PromArt initiatives I was, to put it mildly, a bit angered at the gall of a government acting under the guise of making necessary tax cuts to lighten the load of the taxpayer. In reality it seems that it used its power to silence those who they disagree with – creatively and politically, while at the same time pandering to the far-right Conservative base.

At the CBC, the Prime Minister's press secretary has been quoted as saying that "the [funding] choices made were inappropriate ... because they were ideological in some cases, or the money was going to fringe arts groups that, in many cases, would be at best, unrepresentative, and at worst, offensive."

Statements like that make it seem as if the reasoning behind it had very little to do with taxes and a lot to do with creative differences. Taxes and economics can be han-

dled objectively sometimes, while opinions about what is good art are completely subjective.

Holy Fuck were specifically mentioned in the press release along with other organizations such as the non-profit think-tank The North-South Institute as examples of such bad recipients. The latter was considered to be a left-wing anti-globalization organization that didn't deserve to be supported. There's your political reasoning. The former fits into the offensive argument.

Thanks to PromArt, The North-South Institute received \$18,000 dollars to pay for some of its representatives to attend a conference in Cuba. Watch out Canada! You paid for some crazy non-profit left-wing academics to go talk about good government in Cuba!

Holy Fuck received \$3,000 dollars for a tour in the UK – one that likely netted an income greater than that given and also contributed to Canada's overall GDP. It's rather obvious that Holy Fuck, like former CBC journalist and current Al Jazeera correspondent Avi Lewis (also a recipient for his trips in support of film festivals in Australia and Argentina) are really just scapegoats.

The Conservatives didn't listen to Holy Fuck – otherwise they would have noticed that they have no lyrics at all – therefore their argument about them being somehow *really* offensive falls flat. These aren't some lame post-grunge rockers telling you to break stuff – it's actually pretty tame.

But what about being too fringe? Holy Fuck responded to the announcement by concisely pointing out that they are, in fact, not fringe at all. Their music is played often on MTV and Much Music, and they have been nominated on the short-list for the \$20,000 Polaris Prize and for the Juno Awards. Oops.

Conservative pundits like those at *The National Post* have said that

the program only funded crazy left-wing radicals and those who could have paid for everything themselves. They say that if Canadian artists create world-class art they will be noticed without the help of the Canadian taxpayer.

Whatever dude. Mainstream artists will always be noticed – it's the small guys that need the help. These cuts affect more than just so-called crazy liberals – they will affect the Canadian Museum of Civilization – who received \$50,000 dollars to show an Inuit art exhibit in Bra-

zil last year. It affects the various symphonies and orchestras from around Canada who needed this money to travel abroad. They affect the \$150,000 dollars that the Toronto Film Festival received to pull in international film buyers to Canada – an event that gives Canada worldwide exposure and also bolsters our strong film industry. PromArt wasn't just for the left – it was for the benefit of all Canadians.

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Laurier's own Shakespeare

The Cord sits down with Laurier alumnus Sunil Kuruvilla, about his play *Rice Boy's* inclusion in next year's Stratford Theatre Festival

ANNE DONAHUE
CORD A&E

The Stratford Shakespeare Festival, one of the most prominent art festivals in Canada, draws thousands of viewers yearly, with some of North America's most prominent actors, directors and playwrights taking part. In 2009, The Stratford Festival will be home to the Governor-General award-nominated play, *Rice Boy*, written by Wilfrid Laurier's own Sunil Kuruvilla.

Kuruvilla, co-ordinator of marketing and promotions for the Faculty of Music, holds a BA in English from Laurier. Following his graduation from Laurier, Kuruvilla moved on to study creative writing at the University of Windsor under the guidance of acclaimed Canadian writer, Alistair MacLeod. He was then accepted to the Yale School of Drama where he studied under Academy-award winning writer and director Anthony Minghella (*The English Patient*, *The Talented Mr. Ripley*).

Despite their wildly successful careers, Kuruvilla assures that both men were "very soft spoken and humble... that you would never really know about the achievements they had" - a true feat for award-winning, world-class writers - but one can easily see the similarities between Kuruvilla and his mentors.

"YOU HAVE TO DO IT BECAUSE YOU LOVE IT."

- Sunil Kuruvilla, playwright

Despite winning a competition at the Shaw Festival for his first play and receiving praise and countless nominations for his other work, including *Rice Boy*, Kuruvilla remains humble: "If you start thinking about productions or what happens after the writing, it can sort of stop you from writing. What I'm trying to do is focus on the joy I have when I'm writing."

Rice Boy, set in both Waterloo and India, was written in 1997 during Kuruvilla's time at Yale, where he began writing about Waterloo to combat his homesickness. He was soon drawn to an Indian tradition. "It is a common practice in India for women to grind rice into powder and make elaborate drawings, only to have their art disappear within the hour. I was really bewitched by that image and wove it into the play - how things never really last."

Rice Boy revolves around the re-

lationship between a father and son following the drowning death of their wife/mother, but when asked if the story is based on personal experience, Kuruvilla assures that it is only semi-autobiographical; he grew up in Waterloo, but thankfully, his mother is alive and well.

Waterloo landmarks and references are used throughout the play, including local restaurants and sports teams. However, it was at the play's premiere in the United States that Southern Ontario's culture made its biggest impact. During intermission, Kuruvilla overheard an elderly couple discussing his work: "Wow! Kitchener seems so exotic!" A bold statement since the play also takes place in India - a nation renowned for its traditions, rich heritage and originality.

Currently, Sunil Kuruvilla is working on a feature film screenplay by commercial director Steven Dilleer, and has also been commissioned to write a new play for a theatre in the States. Previously, he has written screenplays for both Showcase and CTV, including *Wrestling With Shadows*, a bio-drama based on the life of wrestler Brett Hartt, which unfortunately was never produced.

Despite this setback, Kuruvilla shares that research is often one of the best parts of writing. Before beginning *Rice Boy*, he began *Fighting Words*, a play that took over fifteen years of research following the death of an esteemed boxer. This type of patience is necessary for successful writing, and in the case of writer's block, Kuruvilla suggests one should "move on to other things so that you're still writing and someday you'll figure it out."

Fall is often a busy time for the playwright, and when asked how students should get involved with writing at Laurier, Kuruvilla states the importance of finding people with similar interests. As a student in the early '90s, he studied plays with Professor Leslie O'Dell who formed a small playwright group that met every week in her office to share their work; "That's the best thing - to show what's grown."

Sunil Kuruvilla is proof that hard work, patience and dedication are crucial to success, and his advice to young writers is straightforward: "You have to do it because you love it, and when good things come your way, you really can't plan for them." I always feel like the best writing isn't the stuff that you plan for, but just sort of surprises you."



SYDNEY HELLAND

PLAY RIGHT - Laurier graduate Sunil Kuruvilla is very excited to see his writing go on stage in Stratford.

date

SEPT. 15 - 19

place

CONCOURSE

hours

9 - 8

last day

9 - 5

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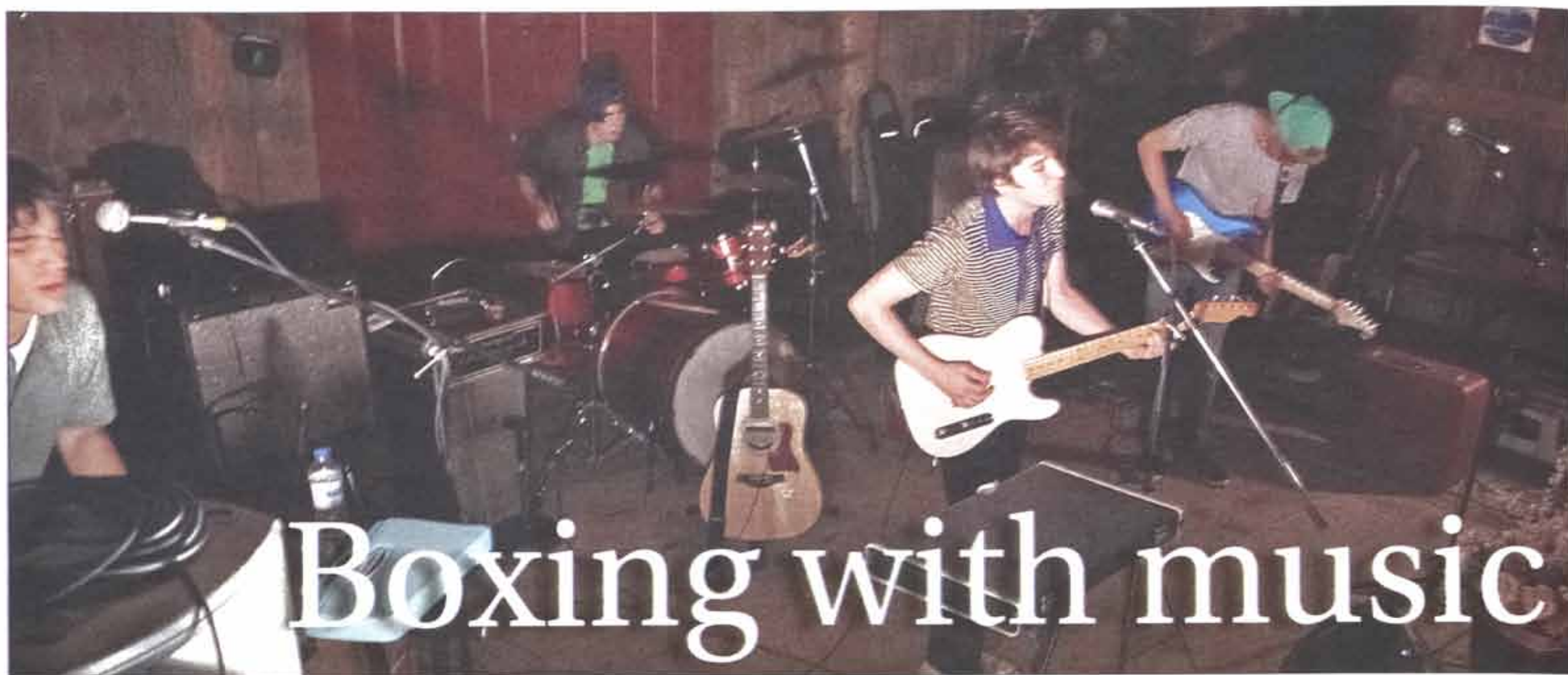
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SYDNEY HELLAND

BETTER THAN BOXED WINE - (Left to right) Dylan Bravener, Kyle Taylor, Tyler Stoddart and Steve Sloane of The Music Box play to a packed Grist Mill down near Waterloo Park.

Waterloo's folk/country/punk rockers The Music Box speak to *The Cord* not long after their August 13 show at the Grist Mill

DANIEL JOSEPH
A&E EDITOR

On first arriving in Waterloo it can seem just like any other city in Ontario. Medium sized, small downtowns, sleepy neighborhoods and a copious amount of bars. This surface impression, in fact, hides the great talent we have emanating from our little part of Canada. Recently a band's name has been popping up again and again when one looks for good local tunes here - The Music Box.

Following the now well-travelled footsteps of local talent that have progressed to the national stage, this eclectic band has built up a following in Waterloo by playing as many shows as they can manage, opening for national acts and just generally throwing themselves out there. They play a distinct blend of punk and folk music, with a side of country that can only reaffirm your faith in young musicians. Here is a band that means it when they say, "all we want to do is support ourselves entirely with our music."

Founding member Dylan Bravener has just two words about the prospect of attending one of this town's well-known universities: "No chance."

"I think I want to become a sailor," he adds.

Tyler Stoddart, the second founder of The 'Box, then chimes - "We will just play a whole bunch of shows on the boat then!"

The Music Box have that young, just-out-of-the-gate feel about them - confidence in what they are doing and willingness to take on what the voracious music industry has to throw at them. It's this sentiment that finds its way on stage with an intensity that is often reserved for groups that have been around for more than a decade. Their August 13 show at the Grist Mill was energy-packed enough to recall the presence of seasoned performers Ian Curtis or Tom Waits.

The four members of The Music Box - Stoddart, Bravener, drummer Kyle Taylor (a Laurier math major) and guitarist Steve Sloane (A UW

English major) - have been playing collectively for a little bit more than a year now, while the two founding members Stoddart and Bravener started jamming around two years ago.

"Me and Dylan used to listen to

"I THINK I WANT TO BECOME A SAILOR"

- Dylan Bravener, The Music Box

tons of music in the basement all the time," explains Stoddart. When his previous band broke up, he still had some songs kicking around in his head, so he decided to record them with Bravener and begin a new project. Soon Taylor (Stoddart's cousin) was begging to get into the band. Later on after see-

ing a show and finding himself impressed, Steve Sloane joined the band and the lineup was finalized.

Since then The Music Box have been making steady progress towards their goal; having played numerous shows in and around Waterloo, they have found themselves collaborating heavily with the owner of Trepid Records, Jeff Woods. "Jeff is our go-to guy. He really did do every-

thing for us."

If anybody would question this, the band quickly summarizes his aid: "He recorded us, mixed us, gave us rides, gave us shows, was our photographer and advertiser." Oh and one more thing: "He gave us money to make our CDs." Out of all this help, The Music Box recent-

ly had their CD release party with their brand new *The Dead Hands* EP on sale for the first time.

With three of the members shifting through playing various instruments in the lineup throughout the night, calling The Music Box multi-talented wouldn't be a stretch.

They've got an organ, a synth, and hell, even an accordion. Citing such influences as Bruce Springsteen, the eclectic Animal Collective and the introverted Bright Eyes, these guys create a versatile mix of punk, country and electronic. Yet the songs all begin the same way. "Thing is - all of our synthy punk songs can be broken down to a folk song on acoustic guitar. We just put layers onto them to make them bigger."

On stage Stoddart, Taylor and Sloane switch instruments regularly between songs, and for any-

one thinking that these are heavily trained musicians - you'd be wrong. As Kyle explained it, "I don't think any of us have ever taken formal lessons - except Steve (Sloane) - and those were just piano ones a long time ago."

Stoddart sums it up pretty well: "Most of the time I don't even know what key I'm singing in."

The Music Box plan on being around for a while - and they will be hitting the stage this Wednesday (September 3) at Maxwell's Music House just across the street from Laurier. *The Dead Hands* EP is out now, and can be found purchased at any of their shows. The Music Box continues to prove that great music is coming out of Waterloo - we have had success found in musicians like Shad, Will Currie & The Country French and now there is likely to be one more.



DANIEL JOSEPH

HARMONICA HARMONIES - Tyler Stoddart's stage presence is rare in today's music scene, and brings with it a great live show.